

Beyond Beaches: Charting a Sustainable Future for Tourism in Andaman Islands

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Keywords

- Sustainable tourism
- Coastal Tourism
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- Andaman Tourism
- Island Tourism

Abstract

Amazing beautiful beaches with recreational activities attracts plenty of leisure tourist towards the coast. The exotic silver sandy beaches with immense rare species of flora and fauna in Andaman caters to the need of tremendous volume of tourist year after year. The continuous growth of coastal tourism along with a blend of adventurous activities like scuba diving, snorkeling, surfing, recreational fishing, water skiing, jet skiing etc., provides economic development to the Andaman and Nicobar administration. The administration of Andaman and Nicobar is facilitating tourism by establishing infrastructure without disturbing its virgin ecosystem. This provides an overwhelming enthusiasm among the adventure tourists to trek, dive etc., despite creating self-employment for the local people.

Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park located in Wandoor of South Andaman Island is one of the major visited tourism spots which comprises of tropical evergreen forest, coral reefs, mangroves and plenty of marine species. Both the Islanders and tourists of Andaman make use of the ferry services to reach the destination. The increasing demand of coastal and maritime tourism from various kind of tourists in Andaman stresses the need to promote tourism in a sustainable manner. Even though tourism activities are planned cautiously without disturbing the natural habitat of coral reefs, the increasing number of tourists in Radhanagar Beach of Swaraj Dweep/Havelock Island, Jolly bouy Island, Baratang Island and Shaheed Dweep/ Neil Island causes huge impact to the coral reefs. The significance of corals plays the vital role for not only sustaining the tourist arrivals to Andaman but also deserves to protect the fisheries which get produced 38581 tonnes by engaging 14839 people in the fishing activity (as per 2011 Census). Hence this research tries to analyse the growth of tourism in Andaman and suggest ways for the promotion of sustainable tourism development in Andaman Islands.

Introduction

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands which are aptly called as emerald necklace of India covers an area of about 8250 sq.km in the Bay of Bengal. It is also called as a Mini India as it contains people from various parts of the country along with its indigenous such as Great Andamanese, Onge, Sentinelese and Jarawas who ascertains the historical and cultural significance of Andaman. Although, this island incorporates numerous unique destinations to fulfil the needs of different kinds of market, beaches are the unique selling proposition which attracts more than 90% of tourists (Equations, 2008). Silver sandy beaches with Olive Ridley turtles, Leatherback, Hawksbill and dense patches of mangroves in the shoreline fascinates the eco-friendly tourist to this paradise islands. As this territory is ecologically significant with its extensive forest cover, widespread of mangroves and coral reefs with enriched biodiversity act as a composite product for tourism industry. Perhaps, the magnificent shoreline with plethora of recreation activities in the Andaman Islands attracts huge influx of the coastal and maritime tourist to the destination. An overwhelming interest of tourists towards the coast not only improves the revenue of Andaman administration but also highlights the linkage between tourism and preservation of coastal ecosystem. Therefore, this study aims to study the tourism practices in Andaman Islands with the growth rate of tourists' arrivals and to suggest measures for the promotion of sustainable tourism development in Andaman Islands.

Review of Literature

Coastal tourism refers to the travel and recreational activities that take place in coastal areas, including beaches, shorelines, and adjacent regions. The evolution of coastal tourism dates back to the end of nineteenth century (Onofri & Nunes 2013). However, in recent decades it is rapidly growing as a dynamic form of tourism which encompasses various recreational activities within it (Dowling & Pforr, 2009). Many islands' countries are significantly dependent on coastal tourism due to its economic benefits (Davenport and Davenport, 2006).

Andaman is a fascinating gateway with pristine beaches and offers unforgettable adventure activities for the tourists (Rajamohan and Indu, 2016). According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), beach tourism is a significant segment of global tourism, attracting millions of travellers each year to coastal destinations around the world. These destinations offer a variety of amenities and services, including beachfront hotels, resorts, restaurants, water sports facilities, and

entertainment options to cater to the needs and preferences of visitors seeking beach-related activities and experiences. Beach tourism refers to the travel and leisure activities that are centered around coastal areas with sandy shores. It involves visiting beaches for recreational purposes, such as sunbathing, swimming, beach sports, relaxation, and enjoying the natural beauty of the coastline. Beaches play the significant role to maintain the ecological balance of the coastal ecosystem and also acts as vital resources for recreation (Birdir et al., 2013).

However, most of the coastal tourism destination lacks data on tourism impacts (Hall, 2001) as more study has been conducted based on the economic significance of pristine environment in the minds of the tourist. Due to the excessive development near the coast, erosion and pollution threatened the tourism industry. For instance, tourism development activities in Fiji, Vanuatu and Hawaii islands lead to the clearance of Mangroves (Minnerbi 1992; Hall 1994). In addition, snorkelers, scuba divers and reef walking could damage coral reefs owing to immature practices. Hawkins and Roberts (1994), Musa (2010), Biggs et al (2010) had documented the impact of tourism to coral reefs by inexperienced SCUBA divers. With the increasing stress towards tourism development and sustainability paves the way to analyse the tourism development in Andaman for sustaining its unique destinations by identifying measures to be taken for the promotion of sustainable tourism development in Andaman Islands.

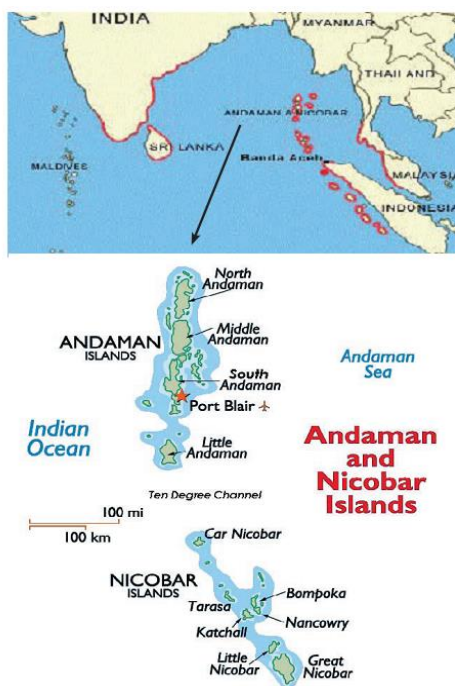
Study Area

Andaman and Nicobar Islands is one of the union territories of India which comprises an archipelago of 572 islands. These Islands are located between 6° and 14° N latitude and 92° and 94° E longitude in the Bay of Bengal near the Myanmar coast.

Port Blair is situated in the South Andaman is the capital of the territory. The capital city takes around 1300 km of aerial distance from Kolkata and 1368 Km from Chennai within 3 hours of air travel. It takes around 60 hrs to reach Port Blair by ship from Chennai/Kolkata/Vishakapatnam

According to Census 2011, Andaman and Nicobar Islands contain the population of 3,80,581 in three different districts. District of South Andaman possess the maximum population of 2,38,142 whereas Nicobar obtained the least population of 36,842 persons. The population density is 46 and literacy rate is 86.63%. In this

island territory 36 islands are permanently inhabited by humans of which 26 islands are in Andaman and the rest 10 are in Nicobar Islands which is not open for tourist.



Source: Reddy (2006)

Research Methodology

The research method used in this study are descriptive and exploratory analysis based on the observation by the researcher in the Andaman Islands. It was carried out by an extensive study of literature related to Andaman Islands and coastal tourism. The Secondary data of tourist arrivals in Andaman Islands were collected from Dept. of Information, Publicity and Tourism (IP&T), Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration, Indiastat.com etc., for identifying the trend of Tourist Arrivals for the past a few decades.

The objectives of this study are

- To study about the history of Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- To explore the contemporary tourist destinations and its practices in Andaman Islands
- To identify the trend of tourist arrivals in Andaman Islands and
- To suggest measures for Sustainable Tourism Development in Andaman and Nicobar Islands by SWOT analysis.

The scope of the study is mainly restricted to the islands in Andaman as tourists were not permitted in the Nicobar Islands.

The Historical Account of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The history of Andaman and Nicobar Islands dates back to earliest times since trade routes from India to East Asia. I-ching, the Chinese Buddhist monk and Arab travellers had mentioned about Andaman Islands when they visited during 7th and 9th century respectively. Marco Polo, (1254–1324 A.D) was the first person from the West to reach one of these islands. The rulers of Chola dynasty called this island as Tinmaittivu/ the impure islands and used as a naval base against the Sriwaya Empire of Sumatra in Indonesia. In the early 18th century, Kanhoji Angre, an admiral of Marathas had his base on the island and attacked the vessels of various European merchant such as Portuguese, Dutch and English passing towards Asian colonies. They successfully captured the yacht of the then British Governor of Bombay and never got defeated by any of the military forces. Later, the Britishers explored Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 1789 to form a penal colony. They left the island by 1796 due to the natural calamities.

Nicobari tribes are the most populated who were settled in Car Nicobar, Nancowrie, Camorta and Katchal Islands. Shompan tribes are inhabited in Campbell Bay at Great Nicobar. They were the descendants of the Mongolian tribe. They have a rich cultural heritage and are known for their unique traditions, customs, and way of life. The Nicobari people have traditionally been skilled in various crafts such as boat-building, weaving, and pottery. Their society is organized around close-knit communities, and they often practice a form of animism, where they believe in the spiritual significance of natural elements and ancestral spirits. Family and community ties hold significant importance in Nicobari culture, and they have a communal approach to decision-making and resource-sharing. Jarawa, Ongi, Sentinel and Andamanese are other tribals groups occupied in north, central and south Andaman Islands belonging to the Negroid tribes.

In 1858, when Britishers established their colony in Port Blair and large number British soldiers and officials started settled in Andaman. This annoyed primitive people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and started declined the friendly relation of Britishers showed by sign language and started shooting them with poisoned arrows. This led to a battle where Britishers used guns and killed many of them. The escaped tribes entered into the deep forest for protecting themselves and their population gradually faded due to diseases etc.

Britishers brought the convicts of India and Burma to the islands by ships. Indians fought for independence were chained and made use to clear the forest by tortuous treatment. The first Prison and Hangman's Noose to hang the prisoners were built at a Viper Island. In order to increase the number of cells for the prisoners they created a new one at Atlanta Point in Port Blair. Moreover, in 1906, they completed the herculean task of constructing a three storied Cellular Jail with 698 rooms for the prisoners by using themselves as the labour. The protesters were jailed in separate cell, tortured and cruelly killed by hanging to death.

As Britishers gave up the practice of jailing the protesters in the islands, the freedom fighters were released to their own state in 1938. Some prisoners enjoyed good relation with Britishers got settled in the islands and worked in the government office based on their educational qualification. Some were provided with farmlands for cultivation and lead to the formation of many towns in the islands. Japanese troops occupied the islands during Second World War. The flag raised by Nethaji Subash Chandra Bose on December 29, 1943 paved the way for the formation of the first independent state under Col. Loganathan as a presiding officer of the Government. It was recaptured by Britishers in 1945 and retained back by Indian government as a Union Territory after independence.

Tourist Destinations in the Islands Of Andaman

Although more humans began to settle in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands since 19th century, tourism in the islands is still in an infant stage. The spectacular views of white sandy beaches with innumerable marine species in the sea, thick forest cover which offers a visual treat for bird watchers with rich number of bird species and splendid wildlife delivers an impressive experience to the eco-tourists. Such an engrossing destinations in the Islands of Andaman are classified as North Andaman, Middle Andaman and South Andaman based on their geographical location.

Ross and Smith islands is considered as the most beautiful islands in the archipelago with activities like snorkelling, long beach walks, nature trails etc. This is otherwise called as Twin islands of North Andaman due to the natural connection of white sand bar linking two islands. It can be visited with prior permission from Forest Department through fishermen's boat from Diglipur. A marine sanctuary consists of exciting coral reefs and fascinating underwater species mesmerises the tourist with its turquoise blue waters and picturesque

village makes it a perfect destination for the tourist. Further, it is also the nesting place of Olive Ridley Turtles and wild elephant can be spotted occasionally.

North Bay Island is one of the uninhabited islands where corals are widely spread. This provides a fabulous view for the snorkeler. In addition, it offers extensive water sport activities like speed boat ride, jet ski, SCUBA dive and underwater sea walk to witness mind blowing marine species. Tourist can also enjoy watching sea floor, reefs and fishes through glass bottom boat ride and sea walking from the stationed sea walk platoon which provide unforgettable experience to the tourist.

Diglipur is a marvellous tiny town with prominent ecotourism site which take through the lush green tropical rain forest. It is situated at the foothills of Saddle peak which is the highest point in Andaman. Tourist visiting Diglipur also visit *Shyamnagar* in 20 km which is covered by thick jungles and the presence of volcanoes. Indeed, *Ramnagar and Kalipur beaches* are famous due to its serenity, turtle nesting and less population. Moreover, Diglipur offers various activities like trekking through the jungles and maritime tourism such as snorkelling, island hopping, fishing, boating etc.

Steward Island is located in North of Diglipur and Middle Andaman. It has an isolated long beach to relax in the presence of 'cool breeze' and to play sports such as beach volleyball, football etc.

Middle Andaman

Mayabunder is the native place of former Burmese Karen Tribes. They were carried as low-priced labourers by the Britishers during their colonisation in Andaman. This village is accessible by ships, boats and buses from Port Blair at regular intervals. Tourist can reach **Karmatang** beach within 30 minutes to relax themselves on the white sandy bed with a vast shoreline. In addition, this beach also encompasses small huts which is an ideal place to take rest, read books and to have a party. Sleeping in the hammocks between green trees near the sea shore refresh the minds of the tourists.

Ray hills is a newly developed eco-tourist site with eco-guest houses. It let the tourists to explore the forest through wilderness trail with various recreation activities like rock climbing, angling and elephant safari.

Austin x is a must watch destination for environmentalist and nature lovers. The visitors are get acquainted with evergreen mangroves and an extensive variety of crocodiles and bird species. **Avis Island** is an uninhabited beach, which is nearer to Mayabunder is well known for coconut plantation and good for swimming and excursion.

Rangat is a large island with the pristine beaches and waterfalls encompasses a 1070 sq. km. It includes 14 gram panchayats with 75 census villages. This village is populated by the people of Tamil Nadu and Kerala whose main occupations are fishing and cultivation. **Amkunj Beach** is an eco-friendly tourist destination where the tourists can observe sea turtles with their nesting ground in the beach. Further, it also incorporates an eco-park to preserve the marine species and pleasant environment. This park is totally made up of wood and many local people and tourist spend more time in this beach to relax themselves.

Baratang is a region of year-old wilderness with the habitat of indigenous tribes. Formerly, natives did not allow visitors to spend time in Baratang Island. Now it become a fascinating tourist destination amid the huge forest, mangroves creeks, Parrot Island and Limestone caves. Hundreds of parrot flocks spotted with the varicoloured parakeets in the parrot island. Besides these, many active mud volcanoes like Jalki are famous in the destination. The tourist can reach this island only through ferry services. The natural limestone cave is one of the most visited destinations with proper local guide and prior approval from the forest department

Long island is a small island with very little infrastructure which is reachable by boat, 4 times a week from Pheonix Bay Jetty in Port Blair. *Merk bay beach* is reachable only by a small boat from Long Island jetty. It lies in the North Passage Island which is nearer to the home of Great Andamanese tribe in Strait Island. *Lalaji bay* is popular as a picnic spot which can be reached by walking in an hour through a mangrove creek from Long Island. It is a good location for beach camping or skinny-dippers. The hotels of this region are mainly managed by the forest department.

South Andaman

Port Blair is a commercial hub of the islands with a natural harbour. It is accessible by sea and air from mainland which provides incredible services to the tourists. Port Blair remind us the historical sacrifices made by our leaders during the struggle for independence. Perhaps, **Cellular Jail** is the one was constructed between 1896 and 1906 by the Britishers for the solitary confinement of prisoners. The size of an individual cell is 13.5 feet X 7 feet where freedom fighters were kept in an exile which became a national memorial for the tourist now.

Mount Harriet National Park is a must visit spot for the wildlife tourist and nature lovers. It is covered with dense evergreen forest with an area of about 47 sq km. It is blessed with highest peaks such as Mt. Koyob, Mt. Harriet, Mt Hext

and many more. Besides it is also a home to 393 plant species which includes 74 endemic and 51 introduced species and 27 species of reptiles and amphibians including 12 endemic species.

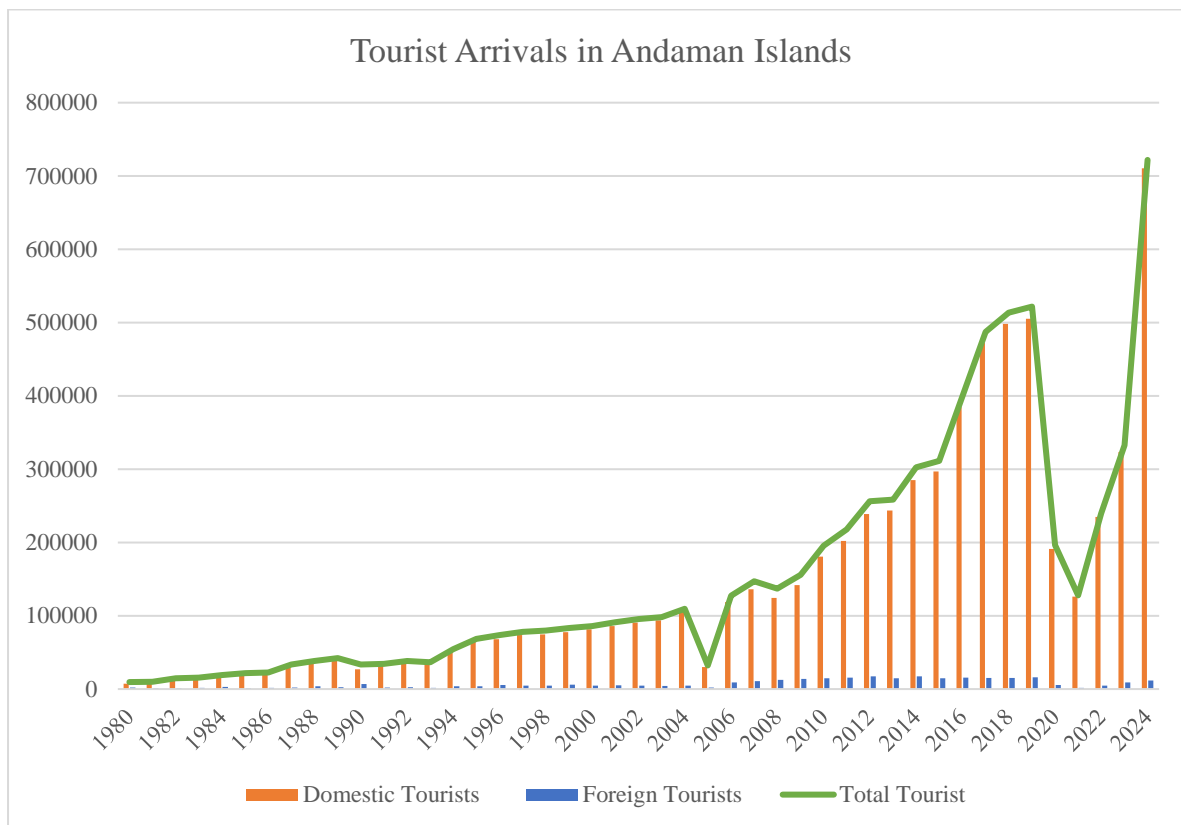
Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Wandoor is the most important site to view wealth of marine species in Andaman. The excursionist can enjoy the unparalleled experience of more than 300 marine species like Dolphins, sharks, dugong, star fish, jelly fish, corals, coral reef fishes, salt water crocodiles, octopus, sea snakes etc. Moreover, it houses mammals such as Andaman /wild bulletwood, orchids, canes etc. The other major attractions of Port Blair are Viper Island, Jolly Buoy Island, Rajiv Gandhi Water Sports Complex, Chidiya Tapu, Chatham Saw mill, Corbyn's Cove, Gandhi Park, Jogger's Park and many more.

Swaraj Dweep formerly known as Havelock Island is world renowned for its splendid beaches. It is located at the North-East of Port Blair with an area of 113sq.km with beautiful white sandy beaches, rich coral reefs and lush green forest. **Radhanagar beach** has been voted as Best Beach in Asia's is in this island. It is a crescent-shaped beach with a high carrying capacity where plenty of tourists will remain for picture-perfect view of sunset. Havelock Island also encompasses various other beaches such as *Vijaynagar beach, Elephant Beach and Kalapather Beach*. It provides innumerable activities like sun bathing, surf riding, scuba diving, swimming, beach-combing, game fishing, watching the sunrise or sunset, bird watching, trekking, kayaking and many more. Plethora of marine species around this island enhances variety of diving sites for the scuba divers like Mac Point, Lighthouse, Pilot reef, Seduction Point, Minerva Ledge, Aquarium and Turtle Bay.

Saheed Dweep also known as Neil Island is one of the top visited tourist spots in Andaman. This marvellous island is shallow and encircled with colourful coral. It is also called as the vegetable bowl of the Andaman as it produces agriculture products in wider area. Having a flat terrain, this island is ideal for cycling and even one can cover the whole island by walking within two hours. Visitors can experience the serenity of the village with a blend of deserted beaches. The *Lakshmanpur Beach* in Neil Island is perfect for swimming, snorkeling and sunbathing. It also offers visual retreat to the researchers to witness sea urchins, sea cucumbers, sea anemones, star fish, ornamental fishes etc. Besides, it is also famous for a Howrah Bridge which is naturally formed by two living corals and it offers a spectacular view during low tide. It was named by the Bengalis when they settled in Andaman. Another popular beach in Andaman is *Bharatpur Beach* where leisure tourist can view corals by hiring a glass bottom boat whereas adventure tourist can go for scuba diving and snorkelling. There are few resorts with proper restaurant at the ends of the islands.

Trend of Tourist Arrivals in Andaman Islands

According to the tourist statistics of the destination for the past four decades, the tourism in Andaman Islands have been growing steadily despite less infrastructure and poor connectivity. The remoteness of the destination with other parts of the world lead to failure in attracting the large number of international tourists towards it. However, such drawbacks were not disinclining the domestic tourists (7500 in 1980 to 505398 in 2019) to enjoy the coastal and maritime tourism in the Andaman Islands. Due to Tsunami in the year 2004, there was decline in the total tourist arrivals from 109582 to 32389 during the year 2005 which was later improved drastically except 2008 due to economic slowdown in 2007. Moreover, with the increasing recreational activities in the islands of Andaman lead to the increase in the number of tourist arrivals in Port Blair from 2009 to 2019 with the highest number of domestic tourists 5,05,398 in 2019 from 1,42,042 in 2009 and foreign tourists 16,206 in 2019 from 13,684 in 2009. However, due to COVID-19 Lockdown during 2020-2021 the growth rate of domestic and foreign tourists got declined to 1,27,925 from the total tourist arrivals 5,21,604 in 2019. In 2024, the total tourist arrivals in Andaman Islands reaches the maximum of 7,21,894 of which the domestic tourists' arrivals were 7,10,397 which was more than the domestic tourist's arrivals in 2019 where as foreign tourists were 11,497 which was not even surpassed the foreign tourist's arrivals in 2008 (12,512). The trend of tourist's arrivals in Andaman clearly depicts that the recovery of foreign tourists has been very slow compared to the domestic tourists in Andaman and it is steadily progressing. Therefore, sustainable tourism practices measures have to be taken by the stakeholders of Andaman Tourism for sustaining the Island destination forever.



Source: Dept. of Information, Publicity and Tourism (IP&T), Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration, Indiatat.com

SWOT Analysis for Sustainable Tourism Development in Andaman Islands

The SWOT analysis highlights the strengths and weakness of tourism development in Andaman Islands. It also gives a glimpse of opportunities and challenges for the promotion of sustainable tourism development in the Islands of Andaman.

Strengths

- Andaman Islands possess white sandy beaches with pristine nature. Beach tourism is the major sources of revenue for people in the Andaman while enhancing their livelihood.
- The unique blend of sandy beaches with dense equatorial forest encompasses diverse types of flora and fauna with a wide range of forest cover (6777 sq. km.), wetlands (1,52,809 ha) and long coastline (1962 km). More importantly it houses over 1200 species of fishes, 179 species of coral, certain rare species of turtles, mangroves and 246 varieties of birds and possess ideal characteristics for Eco-tourism destinations.
- Port Blair is also easily accessible through its 23 ports and an international airport improves exports. Andaman Islands are very closer to South East

Asian Countries like Indonesia and Thailand. Stronger ties between India and Indonesia promote tourism and enhance people to people contacts.

- Government of India's Look East Policy and plans to develop a greenfield airport and other infrastructure development through Public-Private Partnership expands international tourists to Andaman Islands
- Jolly Buoy Island is one of the popular destinations for activities such as diving, snorkelling and glass bottom ride which permits tourists to enter only for six months (November to May) in order to preserve coral reefs by taking tourist to the alternate Red Skin islands which are plastic free zone to preserve the vibrant marine life.
- Presence of historically significant sites like cellular jail, Viper islands etc fulfils the need of cultural tourists.

Weakness

- Cost of transportation/ ferry services between islands are high
- Lack of telecommunication network during sightseeing at island destinations
- Scarcity of resources like drinking water, power supply etc
- Huge demand for accommodation during peak season
- Inadequate knowledge on coastal environment and irresponsible water sports activities may cause irreversible damages to the marine ecosystem

Opportunities

- Many unexplored destinations with peaceful ambience enhance investment for Cruise tourism, adventure tourism, marine tourism etc
- Upcoming undersea optic fibre cable for IT industry improve the digital connectivity for online trading and tourism
- Fishermen participation in providing dunghi/ small boat service to the tourists enhance their livelihood
- Creates demand for traditional arts & handicrafts among domestic and international markets

Threats

- Low-lying areas at high risk due to climate change, Tsunami etc.
- Improper tourism practices may threaten fragile ecosystem and increase the conflict between host and guest (for ferry service, food items etc) and man-animal (crocodile free zone)
- Solid Waste Management during peak season stresses the need to adopt reduce, reuse and recycle practices to curtail its production

Suggestion and Conclusion

Tourism development in the islands of Andaman offered a better job opportunity with increased revenue by providing the necessary services to the tourists through small boat etc. It is also in the process of greater infrastructure development by improving its mobility within Islands and mainland. However, this study highlights the most pressing challenges of environmental conservation in the islands of Andaman for sustainable tourism development. Perhaps, Havelock Island is one of the most visited islands in Andaman which attracts around five lakh tourists a year is struggling to manage its solid waste. Due to the limited landfilling sites and lack of human resource for waste collection and recycling mechanism stresses conscious disposal of solid waste. Because coastal pollution is a severe issue and need to be addressed in a timely manner. Pattaya, Thailand is the best example for unplanned tourism development in Southeast Asia which lost its pristine environment by untreated waste water, removal of tree cover for resort development and degradation of coral reefs for recreation activities (Wong, 1998). Therefore, immediate measures like capacity building with regard to the fragile ecosystem have to be carried out for all stakeholders of the tourism industry and the residents of Andaman Islands to curtail waste creation by following reduce, reuse and recycling techniques.

Although Fish Production in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (coastline - 1,962 km) have raised to 46,590 tonnes during 2022-2023 from 36,620 tonnes in 2012-13 which is comparatively very less with regard to Goa (coastline – 104 km) whose production was 1,17,890 tonnes in 2016-17. However, fishermen engaged in fishing have declined from 14839(2011) to 7,793(2022) with the increase in fish production. The advancement in shipping technology, pollution and overfishing lead to the threat of wilderness areas of the world ocean which are diminishing catastrophically might disappear within 50 years if failed to take protective measures (The Hindu, 2011). It also highlights the need to maintain the optimum usage of resources and to avoid over dependency on tourism by neglecting fishing in the long run.

Sustainable Tourism practices in Andaman Islands such as dongie (a small boat operated by fishermen) with prior permission from forest department for visiting the Ross and Smith islands etc limit the number of tourist arrivals in the destination to manage the carrying capacity efficiently. As rightly pointed by Wesley and Pforr (2010) needs political will to execute tourism practices in a more transparent manner with the coordination of all stakeholders by providing the complete details in the printed media/ website facilitate tourists to have a hassle-free responsible visit in the islands of Andaman.

The voices of local elected representatives and people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are to be listened to avoid more issues related to infrastructure. Introducing separate boats for residents and tourists avoid problems related in getting boat tickets between residents and tourists. More powers to be given to the Panchayat Raj institutions for streamlining the tourism service providers with added opportunities for local investors than the outsiders to avoid exploitation of natural resources for short term profits.

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