



YET TO TAKE OFF

Foreign tourist arrivals are growing at a healthy pace, but India's share of global traffic and receipts is still woefully low. **By Ramesh Chakrapani**

Foreign tourist arrivals in the first six months of the current year grew year on year with the exception of May, while tourism receipts also clocked a healthy growth of 12.9 per cent for the same period, according to a report from the Ministry of Tourism.

The report said that in 2017, foreign tourist arrivals grew 14 per cent year on year to reach 10.04 million, while forex earnings from tourism rose 15.4 per cent to touch Rs.1,77,874 crore.

However, despite these impressive figures, the country has a long way to go in the global scenario: it stood 26th in global tourist arrivals and ranked 13th in world tourism receipts in 2017. India's share in international tourist arrivals was just 1.17 per cent.

earning 210.7 billion and accounting for 15.82 per cent of global tourism receipts, followed by Spain (68 billion), France (60.7 billion), Thailand (57.5 billion) and Italy (44.2 billion). India earned 27.3 billion, accounting for just 2.05 per cent.

Bangladesh was the top source of all foreign tourist arrivals in 2017, with 21,56,557 visitors, accounting for 21.49 per cent of the total.

It was followed by the United States (13,76,919), the United Kingdom (9,86,296), Canada (3,35,439) and Australia (3,24,243). In 2017, the number of domestic tourist visits to all States and Union Territories reached 1,652.49 million. It crossed one billion for the first time in 2012 and has stayed above that level ever since.

Delhi was the top destination of arrival in 2017, with 28,45,076 tourists, accounting for 28.35 per cent of the total, followed by Mumbai (15,77,669), Haridaspur (11,73,093), Chennai (7,18,905) and Bangalore (5,67,945).



The United States was the topper,

Key statistics 2017

Foreign tourist arrivals in India grew 14% year on year to **10.04 million**

Indian national departures from the country rose 9.5% to **23.94 million**

Domestic tourist visits to all States/UTs reached **1,652.49 million**

Forex earnings from tourism rose 15.4% year on year to **Rs.1,77,874 crore**

India's share in international tourist arrivals is just **1.17%**

Country stands **26th** in global tourist arrivals

India ranks **13th** in world tourism receipts

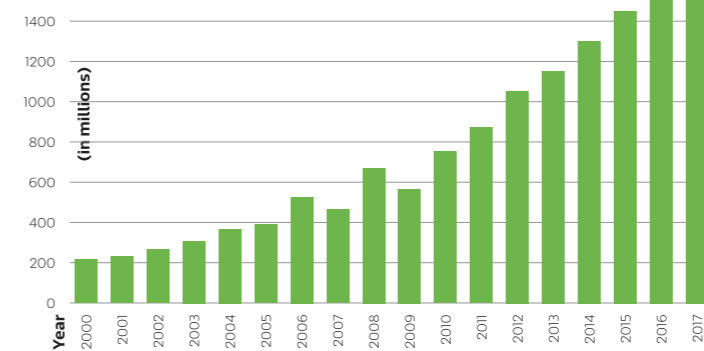
India's % share in global international tourist arrivals (ITAs in million)

Year	ITAs	India
2010	948.0	5.78
2011	994.0	6.31
2012	1,039.0	6.58
2013	1,087.0	6.97
2014	1,137.0	13.11
2015	1,195.0	13.28
2016	1,239.0	14.57
2017	1,323.0	15.54

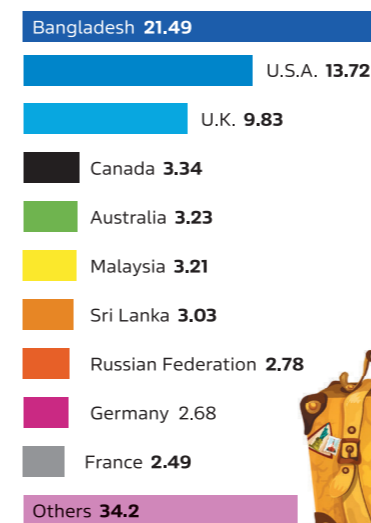
Top countries in international tourism receipts (2017) (in \$ billion)

Country	Amount	(%) share
U.S.	210.7	15.82
Spain	68.0	5.11
France	60.7	4.56
Thailand	57.5	4.32
Italy	44.2	3.32
UK	43.9	3.30
Australia	41.7	3.13
Germany	39.8	2.99
China	35.6	2.67
Japan	34.1	2.56
Total of top 10 countries	636.2	47.76
India	27.3	2.05

Domestic tourist visits to all States & UTs (2000-2017)



Top sources of foreign tourist arrivals in 2017 (%)

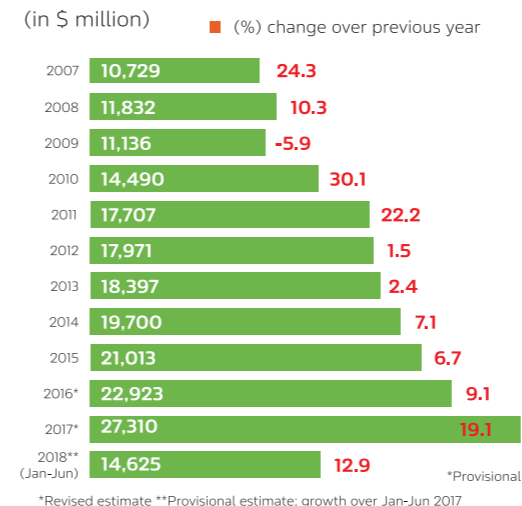


Top 10 arrival points (for foreign tourists in 2017)

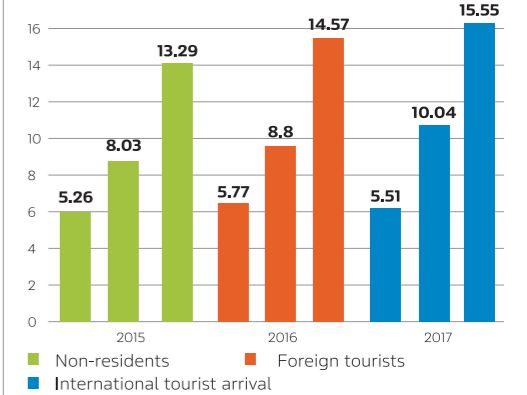
International check point	Number of FTAs	% share
Delhi	28,45,076	28.35
Mumbai	15,77,669	15.72
Haridaspur	11,73,093	11.69
Chennai	7,18,905	7.16
Bangalore	5,67,945	5.66
Kolkata	4,59,145	4.58
Cochin	3,41,987	3.41
Dabolim	3,36,251	3.35
Hyderabad	3,10,924	3.10
Gede	2,60,953	2.60



Forex earnings from tourism (in \$ million)



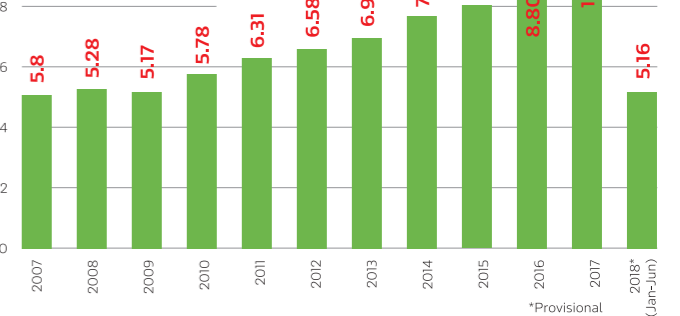
Inbound tourism in India



Foreign tourist arrivals (Jan 2016 to June 2018)

Month	2016	2017	2018*
January	8,44,533	9,64,109	10,47,948
February	8,48,782	9,31,025	10,52,766
March	8,09,107	8,85,936	10,25,830
April	5,92,004	7,17,899	7,49,477
May	5,27,466	6,22,408	6,06,043
June	5,46,972	6,63,470	6,81,279
July	7,33,834	7,79,309	-
August	6,52,111	7,19,129	-
September	6,08,177	7,19,964	-
October	7,41,770	8,66,976	-
November	8,78,280	9,97,738	-
December	10,21,375	11,67,840	-
Total (Jan-Dec)	88,04,411	1,00,35,803	-

Foreign tourist arrivals (million)



Indian nationals' departures from India (2000-2017)

