

# 30

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## TOURISM—CONCEPT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

The beauty of nature lies in its variety which indeed is endless. So is the timeless 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 natural scenery, favourable weather and climate and cultural heritage are used for area development through promotion of tourism. In this lesson, we will study the meaning of tourism, types of tourists and attraction for a variety of tourist places. Also we will answer question about the need for tourism and contribution of variety of tourist resources to the development of modern tourism.



### OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to :

- explain the process of transformation of travel of past into tourism of today;
- discuss various types and related purposes of tourism;
- explain the variety and value of tourist resources of India;
- explain the causes and factors responsible for the growth of tourism;
- analyse the area development through the promotion of tourism;

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- locate and classify tourist places known for varying attractions in different regions of India.

### 30.1 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. 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 settles nor gets employed (or exciled) 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 tourist is a traveller moving from place to place or visiting the same place time and again. Tourism includes all economic activities which are organised around the needs of such travellers. Any travel for holidaying, business or professional trip becomes a part of tourism if it is temporary and is undertaken voluntarily, without an aim to earn any livelihood out of it. The concern of business or professional tourism is for exchanging views for seeking collaboration between different parties. It is an era of economic reforms within the perspective of globalised economy. It is bringing more and more business tourists to our metropolises and other growing centre of industry and commerce.

The word 'holiday' is derived from the term 'holy day'. The reason being that for long it was associated only with the day of religious observances. By 19th century, a number of other holidays have been fixed keeping in view the secular activities of the state.

The concept of annual holidays allowed or taken by a citizen and their association with tourism is a very recent phenomenon.



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- 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 people mainly for holidaying, seeking pleasure or business collaboration.

### 30.2 GROWTH FROM EARLY TRAVELS TO MODERN TOURISM

Travel as a wonderlust in some form or the other has attracted human beings from the earliest periods in history. The sages in India travelled to the Himalaya, sea shores, views 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 environment. Such travels were undertaken in the 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 civilisation and of knowledge about homeland of the Homo Sapiens.

There is an 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 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 thirty’s 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 the scenic beauty of the areas.

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.

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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.

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 travel is the concern of businessmen, the pleasure seekers and the holders of Leave Travel Concession tickets.

### 30.3 TYPES OF TOURISM

Tourism and tourists are 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 four primary 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 traveling 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 these 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 Union’. 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 distinction for practical purposes. Even in case of Pakistan and India, travel is becoming easier as compared to many earlier years. Yet travel between India and Nepal has been generally free of such hindrances.



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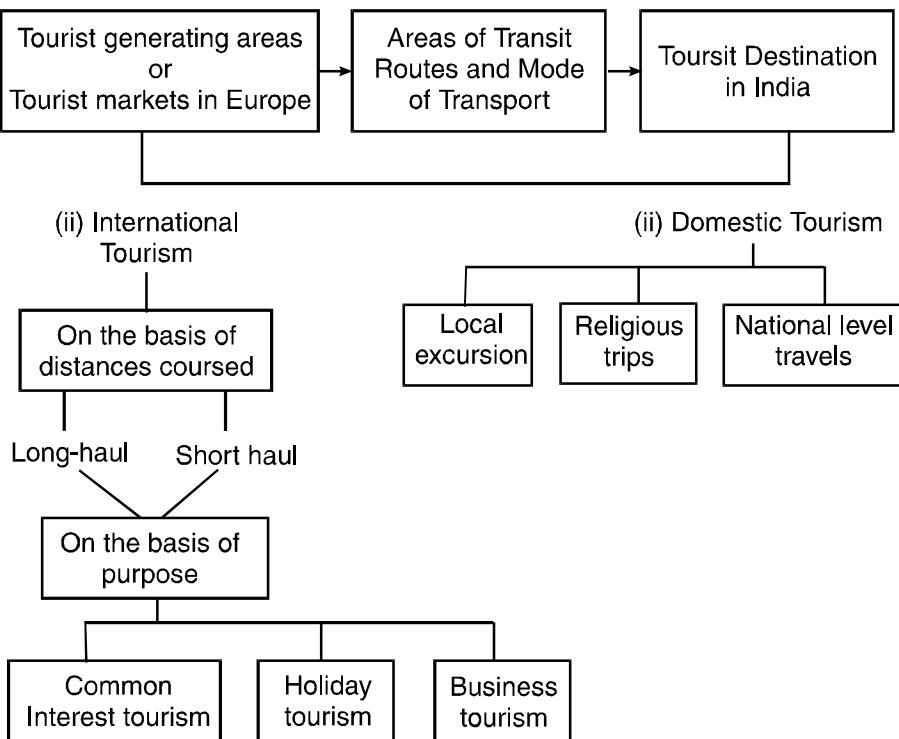


Fig. 30.1 Types of tourist areas and types of tourism

On the basis of distance, tourism can be divided into two types. (a) Long-distance tourism is generally taken to be journeys of over 3,000 kms (b) 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 or in local areas 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 short of travel excursion. Availability of land, suitable sites and favourable environment for planning the development of tourism are important determining 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.

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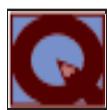
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The tourist flow between places depends upon general attractiveness of one country for another and business or cultural connections. The countries of origin of international tourism are one type of areas and those of their destination are of another type. The former are called the tourists-generating areas and the latter are tourist-destination areas. For example 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 30.1

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) Modern tourism being a voluntary movement, a person from \_\_\_\_\_ class of people can have the freedom to travel. (rich/any).

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- (iii) A tourist generating country is a \_\_\_\_\_ for tourism. (destination/market).
- (iv) Travel of Europeans between a particular group of European countries is now considered as \_\_\_\_\_ tourism.(domestic/international).
2. Mark the five bases for classifying tourism into its different forms ?
- (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_\_  
(iii) \_\_\_\_\_ (iv) \_\_\_\_\_  
(v) \_\_\_\_\_
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) 3000 km or more           |
| (iii) A resident of Udaipur visiting its lakes.                          | (c) Wanderlust                |
| (iv) Long-haul tourism.  | (d) Across Canada and the USA |

## NATURE'S ROLE IN TOURISM

### 30.4 WEATHER AND CLIMATIC RESOURCES

India is a land of varied climates. The regional climatic variations in India may be ascribed to five factors: (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 climate divide or barrier, protecting the subcontinent from extreme cold winds of central Asia.

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 east coast. The climate of the great northern plain is different from the snowy Himalaya. These major contrasts are of great advantage to engage tourists in a variety of activities during their stay in the country. This diversity and the phenomena associated with it are strong enough to attract visitors. The in-

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coming 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 throughout the year. Larger is their diversity, greater is the potential of climatic conditions to develop tourism.

It is more useful to state that the mean temperature in India are nowhere below  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  or over  $33^{\circ}\text{C}$  except in May and June or at high altitudes. It makes our country a prized tourist destination because of a much longer time for outdoor activities during the year. Region-wise a tourist can look for the mildest winter in South India (mean minimum temperatures being about  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), while in the north it is lower by  $5^{\circ}$  to  $9^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

In January, the places like Shimla and Srinagar in the Himalaya become too cold with freezing night temperature of  $-3^{\circ}$  to  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but it helps to keep the snow lying for months, offering an opportunity for winter sports, like skings. The summers are moderately warm to cool and pleasant reminding the European Visitor of similar weather of their homelands.

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. A general attractiveness of the climate gives an idea of its resource value to determine the nature and duration of particular tourist activities.

- Changes in temperature and rainfall, the variety of climatic and weather conditions are the base of climatic resource potential for tourism.
- Prevalence of  $20^{\circ}$ - $33^{\circ}\text{C}$  mean temperature in larger parts of the country throughout the year enhances the scope of outdoor activities of tourist interest.
- Mild winter in South India; pleasant summer and cold freezing winters at hill stations; Monsoonal rhythms of rainfall provide tourist favoured environment throughout the year and across the country.

### 30.5 LANDSCAPE RESOURCES

Geology and the landform are two other major bases of landscape resources. A growing interest in them has given rise to the term ‘geological tourism’. 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



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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 a part 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 hight) 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 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 undulating plains and plateau surfaces. The following table very clearly indicates that the preferences are in descending order from very high to very low relief features. This is based on a project Report of the Researcher A.Glig of Exeter University in U.K.

**Table 30.1 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.

Besides the landforms and natural vegetation, the presence of humans and human efforts in a tourists area are of no less importance. Terraced hillsides including terraced gardens close to the Kaveri river's barrage 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 and environment friendly tourism.

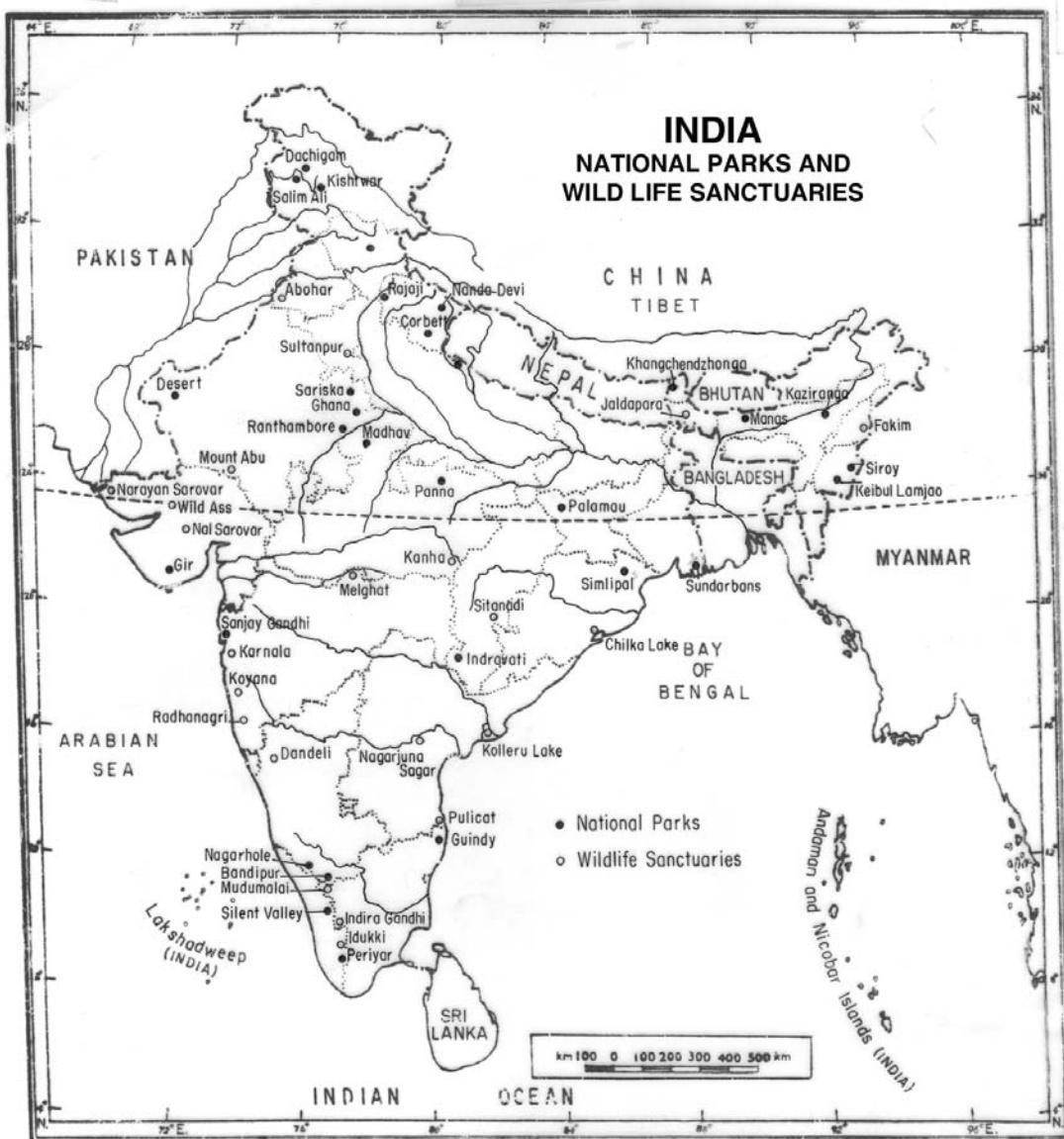


Fig. 30.2 National parks and wildlife sanctuaries

(C) Government of India copyright, 1979

### 30.6 SEASCAPE TOURIST RESOURCES

Coastal waters of mainland and of islands are another source of tourist attraction. Sandy beaches, coves, spits and lagoons, reefs and seaside cliffs are tourist's 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.

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

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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 also 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 resort 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.

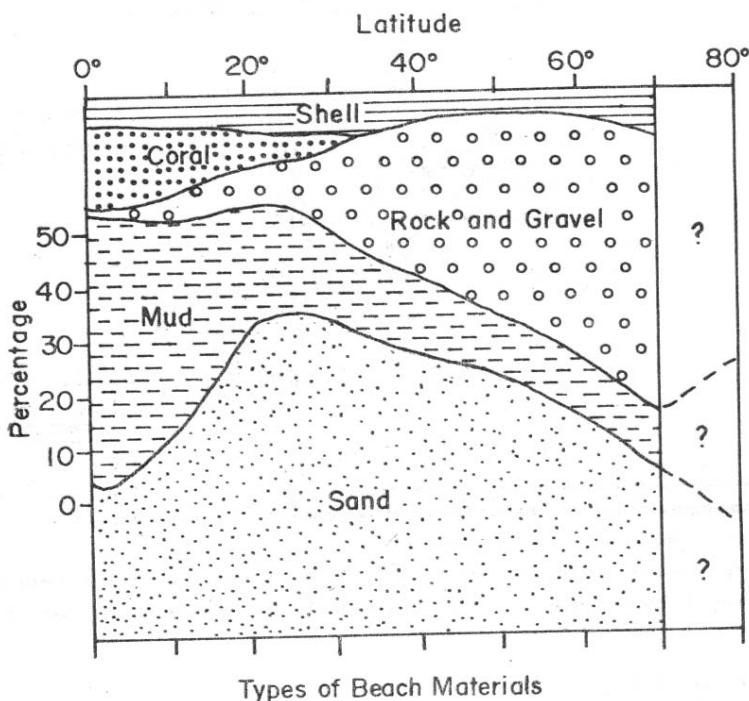


Fig. 30.3 Types of Beach materials

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Development of both the landscape and seascape resources for tourism is generally favoured along the peripheries of large population centers. For all these reasons the planners agree to concentrate on 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.

### **30.7 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. 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 created by our people. These are known for their architecture or the plans of cities now lying in ruins. Many sites may not be having any visual appeal today. But these are still 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 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Two of these last cities are yet intact. Some such old sites are even now of great economic use by earning revenue through 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 attractions added to India's heritage. Greater the variety of tourist resources and their easy accessibility by well-connected transport network, more are the chances of the development of tourism resource potential.

The revenue earned and the direct or indirect sources of employment created for the people, have made the great pool of all our tourist resources of much relevance.

- 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 and business tourist arrivals, revenue earnings and jobs for the local people have also made tourism relevant, at local as well as national levels.

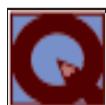
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### INTEXT QUESTIONS 30.2

1. Why is India called a prized tourist destination?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the name of Asia's largest fresh water lake and where is it situated?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In which period 'seven Delhis' constructed?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 30.8 DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

Tourism received a sudden great fillip by industrial revolution which brought about many changes in social and economic life in its wake. Social life became more secular i.e. it got disassociated from the so called religious festivities in many respects. It gradually led to a number of paid holidays allowed to workers as a matter of their right. For spending these holidays the workers are now free to exercise their individual choices. Even in India, a worker can choose to have leave on an average of 30 days in a year as paid holidays. The provision of such holidays and concessions has also increased the free time available for recreative tourism. Greater freedom of voluntary movement, more is the time and leisure for people's participation in recreations of their choice. These are the initial set of determining factors. They have acted in a positive way for the development of tourism in India as well.

The leisure without more of income is of little value for the growth of tourism. All kinds of tourists must have large disposal incomes and fewer financial commitments towards their families. This makes it possible for them to spend more money and time the way they like. During the years prior to the second world war, only a few rich leisure-loving persons could afford to move out and stay on at a place of scenic beauty and cultural attractions. Since 1945, a large number of tourists hailing from all classes of the society, each with its own level of income and tastes have started moving about. They may like to spend less money and are in a hurry to see the maximum within a short time. This is natural because sparing long seasonal vacations for recreative touring is becoming a rarity in modern times. They may choose to combine holidaying for relaxation with something of an adventurous travel, recreative sports and entertainments. They may like to travel as an individual or in a group.

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The provision of seasonal charter flight fares, leave travel concession, travel concessions and low-budget hotel or tent accommodation have emerged as necessary incentives. India has been much more conscious of the need to boost tourism since the last decade. It has helped the growth of tourism to a large extent though at a low pace. The world prosperity and world tourism move hand in hand. For this reason, foreign tourists visiting India come from the developed high-income countries of the western world. A greater value of their currencies makes their travel in India very cheap for them. At the other end, if a developing country is very poor, it can spare much less from its scarce resources to expand the amenities and transport facilities for the incoming tourists.

As India is a developing country in terms of economic growth, it has led to a relatively greater development of tourism as compared to many other countries in the third world, particularly in Africa. On the other hand, Southeast Asian countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Philippines are far ahead because of their fast growing economies in recent years. Thus, at the level of an individual, the motives, availability of leisure, physical energy for active holidaying, income, education and freedom to utilize the personal budget act together. These are the motivating PUSH FORCES at the same time, there are the PULL FORCES. The pull forces pertain to the attractiveness of natural landscape, cultural sites and a favourable climate at tourist destinations. A region or a place having a variety of such tourist resources exercises the greatest pull. Multiple attractions of tourist resources in a region are likely to have the maximum pull effect on the incoming tourists. The development of travel - tourism is thus the result of the interplay of both these forces.

Closer the two countries geographically, historically, culturally and commercially greater may be the tourist flow, between them. India's increasing trade with a growing number of the countries, its collaboration for sharing technical skills and cultural ties have paved the way for faster development of tourism.

Although India is situated along the cross-ways from the east and the west, it is far distant from tourist-generating developed countries of Europe and North America. Only 10% of world's tourist is of a long-haul type so far. But it is becoming less costly and less time-taking than in the earlier days. The share of distantly located developing country like India in this tourist flow has been increasing though it is not yet high enough.

A modern tourist with higher standard of living requires to make about hurriedly by a comfortable and fast moving air, rail or road transport to places of recreational tourism. India could attract a large number of international tourists only after providing greater infrastructure facilities. However it still remains a weaker link in the chain of our tourism development.

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Besides the positive factors encouraging tourism, there are negative factors which act as hurdles. The political instability, conditions of insurgency in parts of the country and keeping foreigners as hostages by terrorists have also drastically cut down the tourist arrivals in the affected regions, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir and in the Northeast. Even a rapid rise in prices, cost of transport and crisis like that of the scarcity of petroleum products occasionally may discourage the growth of tourism.

As a key economic activity, at present Indian tourism has started contributing 5.3% of our total gross domestic product. An overall prosperity (measured in term of GNP per head of population) and normalcy of political, economic and social conditions at the two ends determine the growth of tourism.

- The economic, social and political changes brought by industrial revolution have steadily pushed up the tourist traffic across the world including India.
- More of leisure, greater affluence, paying attention of the development of tourist resources, provision of faster means of transport and other amenities have been positive factors favoring the growth of commercialised modern tourism.
- Negative factors have also been causing periodical setbacks to the growth of tourists flows in the country.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 30.3

1. Which three major factors have boosted the growth of domestic tourism?

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

2. Fill up the blanks by choosing the correct word from the list given in the bracket below :

(Infrastructure, pull, push)

- (i) India's inadequate development of \_\_\_\_\_ has slowed down the development of tourism.
- (ii) Travel-tourism is the net result of interplay of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ forces.



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**30.9 CLASSIFICATION OF TOURIST PLACES**

The tourist places are of many types because of their location in different geographical regions, diverse characteristics of their sites, and a scope for a variety of tourist activities. These are classified to sum up their attractions and amenities as the bases of tourism. However, there are many tourist centres which are multifunctional and offer a combination of attractions in their environs. Such places get the benefit of prolonged stay of tourists.

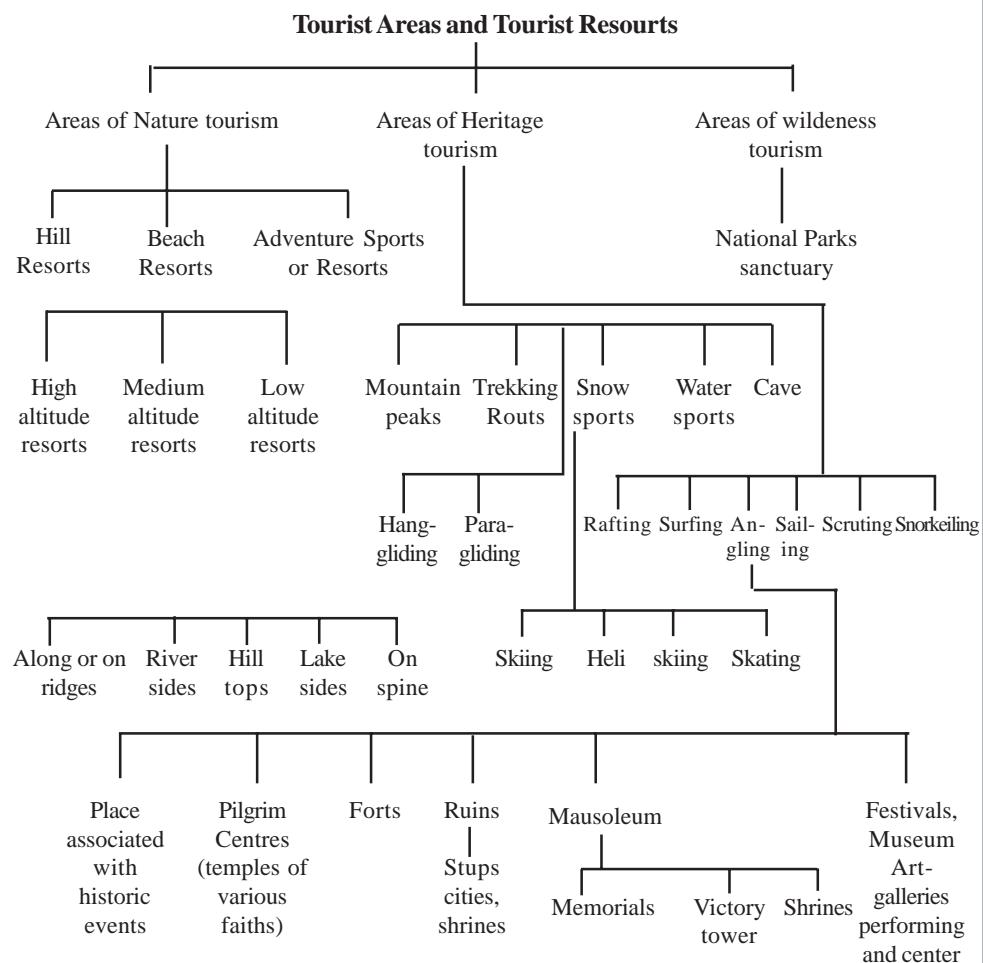


Fig. 30.4 Tourist Areas and Resorts

**(A) Mountain and Hill Resorts**

We come across numerous such holiday resorts almost in all parts of the country. Besides the high Himalayas in the north, there are high hills in the northeast and around the Nilgiris in the South. There are hill ranges of medium to low height in the Vindhya, Satpuras, the Aravallis and the Western Ghats in addition to isolated hillocks elsewhere. For this reason, even states which have predominantly

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plain or flat lands, have one or two hill resorts with the exception of Orissa and Punjab. Locationally, out of 100 hill stations, the largest group of 42 are in the west Himalayas extending from Kumaon (Uttaranchal) to Kashmir. The next long enough of 25 is marked along the Nilgiris-Western Ghats hill divide forming the boundary of our three southern most states. A bunch of 15 is found along Sahyadri ranges, mostly in Maharashtra and another 12 are scattered in the north eastern hills. One comes across the remaining six unevenly scattered on central hills, Eastern Ghats and the Aravallis.



(C) Government of India copyright 1996

Fig. 30.5 Popular Mountain Peaks, Hill Resorts and Beaches

Some of these resorts are relatively more developed and are most popular. Many have the potential to gain importance in years to come and there are others lying undeveloped. We can group these hill stations altitude-wise in three broad categories.



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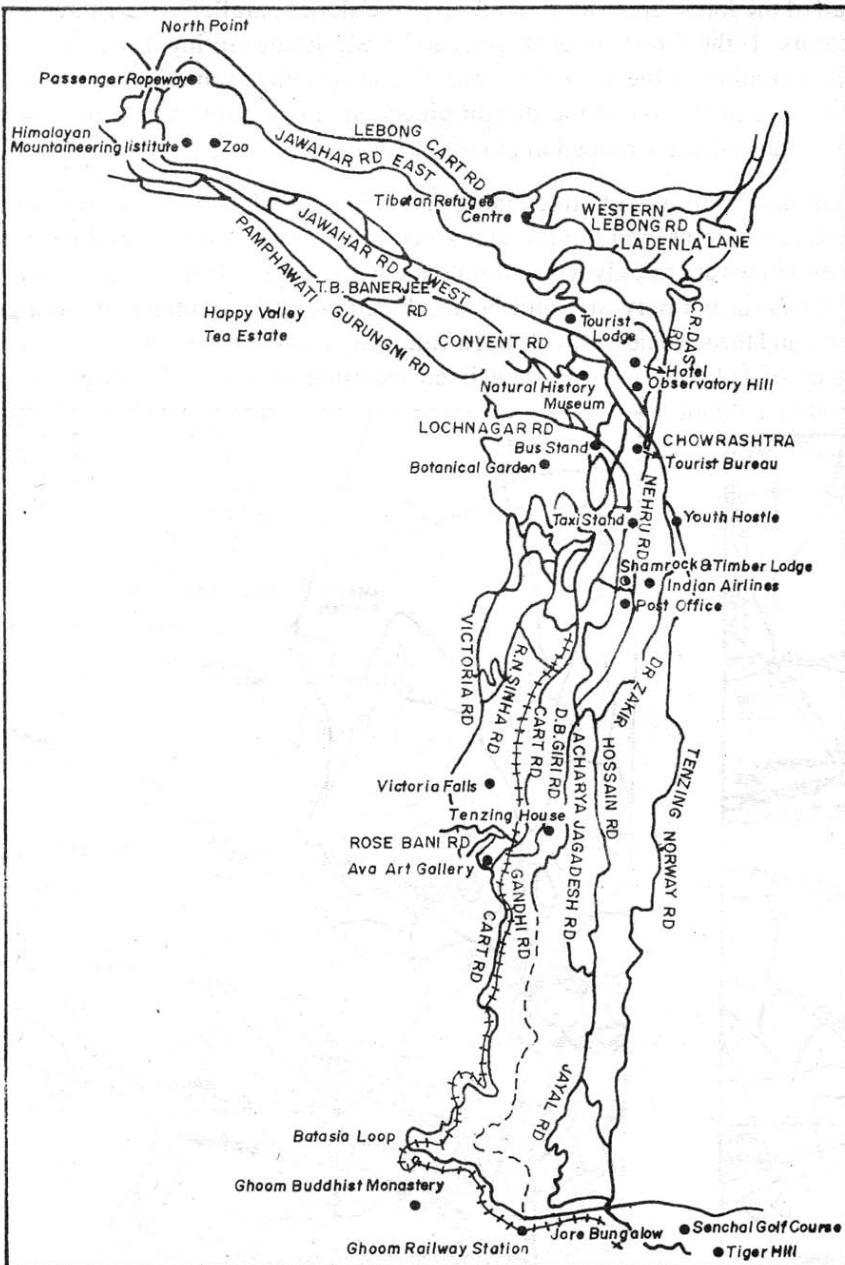


Fig. 30.6 Ridge site of Darjeeling.

The accompanying map locates a very large number of them at medium height, a number of them at low height and a few at very great heights. Most of them share the salubrious climate, pleasant summers, but usually rainy monsoon season and mildly cool winters. Some of them located in the Western Himalayas experience severely cold winter with frequent snow fall. They are famous for

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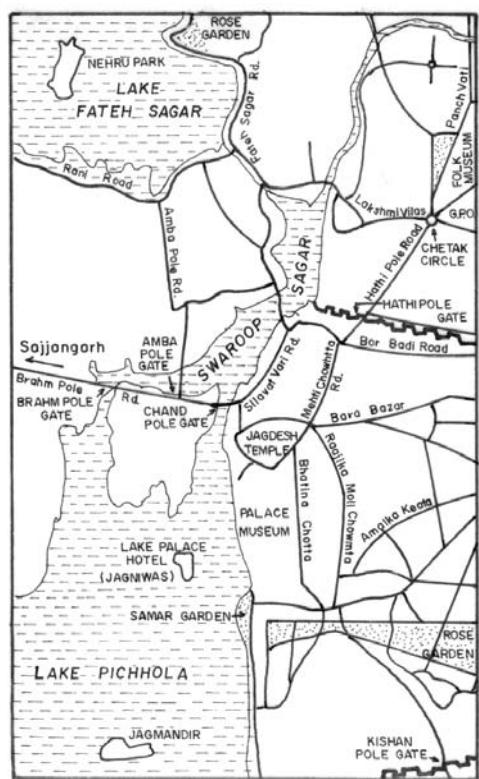
providing relief to the visitors from heat of the burning hot plains in summer months and recreation in the winter season. There are the examples of less known hill resorts, not even marked on general maps. These are Morni at 1000m height in Haryana near Kalka, Haflong (1637 m) in north Cacher Hills of Silcher district of Assam, Jampui (1390 m) in North Tripura, Ukhru (1900 m), east of Imphal in Manipur, Mao (1788 m) on Dimapur, Imphal route, Harsaly hills (1265 m) enroute to tirumala Temple of Andhra Pradesh, Mannar (1600 m) in Western Ghats of Kerala, unspoilt Matheran (830 m) close to Mumbai, Saputara (873 m) on the second highest plateau of the Sahyadris to the Southeast of Gujarat and Chikaldara (1000 m) on Satpura hills near Amaravati town in Maharashtra. Their less popularity and low degree of development are largely a matter of chance a casual neglect. They can hardly be ruled out for being less attractive sites. No doubt they regain their lush greenery and seasonal cascades every year during summer rains. Over a dozen such places are situated on western and eastern ghats or on Satpura hill ranges. Each of them is not without a uniqueness of its own.

Ridge sites like Shimla, Darjeeling, Gangtok or Mussoorie attract by opening out a wider view of the deep valleys and of the snow-clad mountains. The wall of the forest green as a backdrop to the slopes parallel to the ridges add to their charms. If the forest cover is replaced by wholesale cutting down of the trees and mushrooming of the tiers of concrete buildings, the scenic beauty of the resort is lost. The attraction of the distant views on sunny days is as much like as their mystic landscape wrapped in clouds on other days.

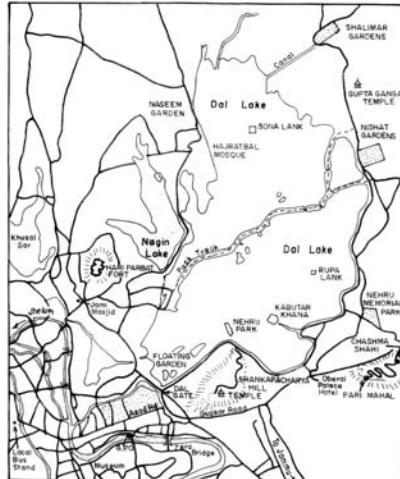
Some mountain resorts like Naini Tal, Udagamandalam (Ooty) and Kodaikanal have come up around the lakesides, lying in a bowl and hemmed in by the hills. Their slopes are thickly wooded upto the water edges. In some cases like Srinagar in Kashmir and Ooty in Tamil Nadu, the encircling mountains are at a great distance and the sites lie in a wide open valley or an undulating grassland. The lakeside resort of Udaipur in Rajasthan is an example of a lakeside resort outside the Himalayan and the hill regions.



Notes



(a)



(b)

Fig. 30.7 Lakeside Resorts of (a) Srinagar and (b) Udaipur.

Resorts like Mt. Abu, Morni, Matheran, Pachmarhi, Saputara and Ranchi are situated on a hump backed broad hill tops or on an uneven plateau surface giving panoramic views of the lush green valley or wild landscape. Shillong and Dalhousie are two examples of places situated on a group of hills separated by narrow valleys. Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh occupies a flat-topped spur projecting from Dhau Dhar towards the Kangra valley. Long walks along a ridge from end to end of circular rounds of the hills engage the visitors everyday. Riverside locations like Manali and Pahalgam combine the advantages of the valley site and the altitude of a mountain. Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh along Indo-Bhutan border Leh and Gulmarg in J & K state, Chail, Shimla, Dalhousie, Tabo, Sangla, Thanedar and Masholora in Himachal Pradesh are the examples of high-altitude or near high-altitude hill stations.

More than the absolute height, a high degree of relative relief is most attractive. It is a measure of the dissection of the landscape. Greater the dissection, more dramatic is the effect on the mind of the observer. Presence of water in the landscape in the form of a lake, cascade, waterfall, springs or subterranean pools add further charms to the site. Besides the lakes at various altitudes, Dhuan Dhar waterfalls on Narmada river near Jabalpur and the subterranean pools at

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Pachmarhi are a few noteworthy examples. The waters provide a sharp contrast to the surrounding hills. The reflection of a nearby forest in water of the lake or of a river imparts the effect of depths to the view.

The scope for water recreations helps to engage the tourists for a longer duration. Nearness of a hill resort to a big city is another locational advantage in the sense that busy urban dwellers go there to enjoy their weekend holidays for rest and recreation. Matheran, Mussoorie, Mahabaleshwar, Shimla and Kasauli are reached from Delhi, Pune, Mumbai and the towns of Punjab within few hours journey. But easy accessibility leads to overcrowding by tourists in the peak summer months. It has degraded their natural environment into an environment of concrete structures.

A single hill station in a state in predominantly flat plain is highly valued. Such a singularity has turned Pachmarhi, Mt. Abu and Ranchi as important summer resorts for their respective states. Other than the site and the locational advantages, the scope for multifarious activities and for circuit tours for a day or two to visit other attractive landmarks around add to their worth. Organisation of winter, summer or folk festivals, exhibition of local handicrafts, the rare plants, the performing arts of the tribal natives at fairs of some interest enhance the appeal of the resorts. A placard at the entrance of the tiny hill resort of Tripura speaks about itself thus: You will never pine for the apples of Shimla, If you ever taste the pineapples of Tripura.

Many hill resorts play the role of base stations by arranging to snow views, sunset or sunrise points, wild life sanctuaries, temples or monasteries, caves, rocky terrains, rock murals or rock cut image in their vicinity. You may like to find out which hill resorts have added to their attractions in some such ways.

#### (B) Beach Resorts

India's long coastline of over 7000 km from Kandla in Gujarat to Kolkata in West Bengal and along the islands offers opportunities for the promotion favourite beach tourism. A number of beautiful beaches of Goa and that Kovalam in Kerala are on the favourite list of the tourists. Even the number of domestic tourists to these two beaches has been thirteen times more than the foreign tourists in certain years.



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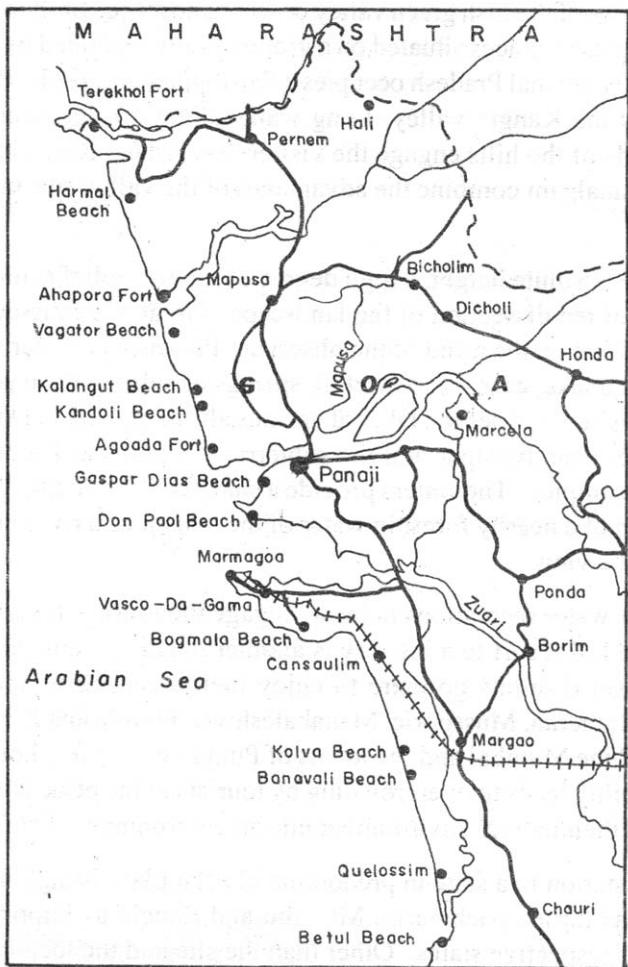


Fig. 30.8 Goa Beaches

Kovalam is highly popular because of its calm temperate and shark free waters along the palm fringed coast. Although sunning is not allowed to the extent which attracts the tourists to Spain, Italy and Southern France coasts, yet one can enjoy Kovalam. It is a health resort for body's massages along ancient Ayurvedic lines. It is ideal equally for water games like surfing or water skiing. Beaches of Goa attract because of their wider sandy and open sunny stretches from end to end.

There are miles of shining golden sands of the beaches along Gujarat's Saurashtra coast. Erstwhile Nawab of Junagadh built the palace beach resort for private use of the royal ladies and their companions at places known as Chorwad and Ahmedpur-Mandvi.

Along Maharashtra's coast there are eight small beaches starting from Mumbai's popular Juhu to Murud at a distance of 220 km south. These unspoilt though small-sized beaches along the whole stretch have the natural beauty but are awaiting the development of an active tourism. Down south Goa's 105 km long

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coastline has as many as 40 beaches though 12 are the most popular so far. A booming tourism is already experienced here largely due to its hospitable and happy people. Karnataka also has its beaches at Mangalore and Malpe along its south coast and at Karwar along its north coast.

The pride of Chennai is its sun-swept and litter-free Marina beach, second longest in the world, running for 12 km from Chennai harbour in the north to Santhome ( St. Thomas ) church in the south, joining the Elliot quieter beach extending upto Adyar's residential colony. Close to it, in the gulf of Mannar, there are 21 sandy little islands approachable from the mainland just by short hops.

Andhra has its share of two beaches close to Vishakhapatnam known as Ramakrishna mission and Rishi Konda beaches. Orissa has its sea beach close to the ancient sea port of Gopalpur surrounded by sand dunes. Besides Puri and Konark, Chandipore near Balasore is known for its 55 km recession of the tides each day at its beach.

West Bengal has a quiet Digha beach close to Ganga's sea mouth. It is 6 km long, one of the widest in the world amidst gently rolling sea and thick casuarina forest on its sides. The shallow and calm sea has recently made it a popular seaside resort for sailing, fishing and relaxing.

- Tourist resorts are many types depending upon their location, sites and scope for tourist activities.
- Mountain resorts are widespread at different altitudes on tops of ridges and hills, along rivers and around lakes.
- A resort's nearness to a city and to other attractions within a short reach enhances its value for tourism.
- India has the potential to develop beach tourism along its long coastline.
- A number of beaches other than the popular ones in Kerala and Goa still lie neglected.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 30.4

1. Cite one example each of the hill resorts occupying the following type of sites:
  - (i) Along a ridge (in Himachal Pradesh) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (ii) Tops of closely spaced hills (in Meghalaya) \_\_\_\_\_



(iii) Rivers side in a mountain valley (in Jammu & Kahsmir) \_\_\_\_\_

(iv) Around a lake (in Uttarakhand) \_\_\_\_\_

2. State two major factors for the popularity of Kovalam beach.

(i) \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which three items out of the following add to the value of a hill resort?

Dissected landscape, fashion-minded tourists, proximity to a city, temples for worship, nearness to a snowline, multi-storeyed buildings.

(i) \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name one important beach each in Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu.

(i) \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) \_\_\_\_\_

### **(C) Cultural Centers (Heritage Tourism)**

India is rich in heritage tourism. This is true of almost every part of the country and today 26 such sites have been included among world tourist sites. Our cultural heritage consists of ancient temples and shrines held sacred by the people of different faiths. There are numerous sites which were once abodes of the saints. These are the pilgrimage centers visited every year by lakhs of devotees. Their number is the largest and these are most widely distributed as compared to all other tourist centers. The images, symbols, diverse architecture and legends created around the origin of ancient temples seem to carry an appeal even for the curious tourists. The styles of temple buildings, the minarets and the arches vary from one part of the country to the other. The clear examples of this variety are the gompas (Buddhist monasteries) of Ladakh and Sikkim, the gopurams with complex patterns of Hindu temples of Tamil Nadu and other southern states.

Hindus have shown keen sense of direction in locating different pilgrim centres in every major corner of the whole country. There are four places of the highest order of pilgrimage called 'Dhams'. Circulating them in one's lifetime was

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considered a great act of devotion even in ancient periods of difficult communication. These are Badrinath in the north, Rameshwaram in the south, Dwarka in the west and Jagannath Puri in the east. There are as many as seven 'Puris' or the holiest shrines. They are Puri in the east, Kanchipuram in the south, Varanasi (Kashi puri), Ujjain (Avantika puri) and Ayodhya (Ayodhya puri) in the centre and Dwarka puri in the west. In mythological terms there are the twelve most sacred shiva temples spread all over the land. These are named as the ' Jyotirlingas' tracing their origins from different legends. Likewise are the fifty one places recognised as ' Shaktipeeths' venerated by the devotees worshipping various goddesses, symbolising power or virility. Mathura- Vrindavan is another tract renowned for Hindu pilgrimage because of its association with the life of Lord Krishna.

Great flexibility in matters of belief has given rise to numerous sects and to such a large number of places of Hindu pilgrimage. Ancient temples occupy remarkable sites, hilltops, river confluences, river or lake sides, islands, forest groves or a nucleus around which the whole city has grown and expanded. There is a great need to have trained guides, well-versed in ancient lore and with a skill to present the history of pilgrim centres properly. By explaining the influence of geography and of the history of areas of pilgrimage we can create a tourist interest in the temple heritage of the country.

Next in order are the historic cities, ruins of ancient cities and the rock-cut temples inside the caves. There are the remnants of the great halls or the 'Chaityas', 'Stupas', 'Towers' and the arches of Buddhist places of worship. There are the temple sites partially or wholly submerged in sea or lying in ruins. At some such sites new temples or shrines have been rebuilt. These are still visited for worship or prayers by the followers. The sites associated with the life of Gautam Buddha are marked in Bihar and the adjoining areas and are the centres of international attraction. The Jain shrines are scattered in Gujarat, Bihar, Rajasthan and Karnataka. Within them are the beautiful images of Jain saints and sculptures of their life stories. On Mt. Parasnath near Hazaribagh in Bihar is situated the most sacred centre of pilgrimage for Jains.

The great sikh shrines exist in Punjab like Hari Mandir Saheb at Amritsar, in Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and in parts of the Himalaya. India has the pride in retaining some old churches especially in Goa and Kerala and centres of worship of the Jews and the Parsis.

The great mosques are recognised from a distance from a number of their minarets and big quadrangles fro congregation of Muslims. Mark the sites of important Jama Masjid at Delhi, Mecca mosque at Hyderabad, Taj mosque at Bhopal, the old Shah Hamadan and the new Hazratbal mosques at Srinagar, the famous shrine of Moinuddin Chisti at Ajmer, Nizamuddin Aulia at Delhi and numerous other Dargahs elsewhere. Many old shrines are venerated by the people of all faiths.



Notes



Fig. 30.9 Important Religious centres of India

The examples of two great ruined cities continue to be number one tourist attractions. One is Hampi in the state of Karnataka and the other is Fatehpur Sikri near Agra in Uttar Pradesh. Hampi's ruins are impressive as a playground of the old rocks of Deccan plateau. They include remains of palaces, temples, markets, reservoirs of water close to the banks of Tungabhadra river. It remained capital of the great Vijayanagar empire for two centuries. The empire extended from the shores of Arabian sea to those of the Bay of Bengal and included Goa in the realm.

These forts were built by the Rajputs, Mughals, Marathas and other powerful rulers of their times for needs of defence or for their own grandeur. Victory tower like Qutub Minar at Mehrauli near Delhi and Kirti Stambh inside the massive Chittorgarh fort in Rajasthan attract all types of tourists. A few forts of different styles were added by the British rulers such as Fort William at Kolkata, Fort

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St. George at Chennai and a portuguese fort at Kochchi. Mark the location of important temples, ruined cities and monuments like forts on the map.

India's cultural heritage also includes places or sites known for the heroism and the penance of country's great sons. Haldighati near Udaipur, Jallianwala Bagh at Amritsar, Cellular jail at Port Blair, Vivekananda rock memorial at Kanya Kumari, Gandhi ji's Ashrams at Sabarmati in Ahmedabad and Sewagram in Maharashtra and the Aurobindo Ashram at Pondicherry are examples of this type. One cannot leave out the birth place of Adi Shankaracharya at Kaladi near Alwaye in Kerala.

The museums, zoos, art galleries maintained in our major cities or places of historic interest in addition to entirely new cities built in independent India are of no less cultural significance.



Based upon Survey of India Outline Map printed in 1996.

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 interpreted from the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 but has yet to be verified.

Responsibility for correctness of internal details shown on the map rests with the publisher.

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Fig. 30.10 Major cultural centres of India



Notes



## INTEXT QUESTIONS 30.5

1. Name the followers of different faiths for whom the following places are most sacred :
  - (i) Saranath ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) (ii) Amritsar ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
  - (iii) Somanath ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) (iv) Ajmer ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
  - (v) Old Goa ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
2. (i) Name the four major centers of Hindu pilgrimage at the extremes of four cardinal directions.
  - (i) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (ii) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (iii) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (iv) \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) Enlist any three geographical sites of the ancient temples.
  - (i) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (ii) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (iii) \_\_\_\_\_

**(D) Adventure Tourism ( Off- Beat Resorts)**

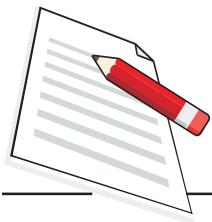
Adventure sports open off-beat destinations and new avenues for the promotion of tourism. It covers activities such as trekking, skiing, river rafting, water games, mountaineering, rock climbing, hang gliding, para gliding, hiking and camping in the habitats of wild life.

At present outdoor adventure travelers constitute only about 7% of the total tourist traffic. It can be increased for attracting the youth in the age groups of 25-35 years, in large numbers. As a part of the tourist package, it will benefit by adding a week to an estimated average span of 28 days stay of foreign tourists.

**(i) Trekking :** The term ‘terk’ once referred to long migrations of the Africans by ox carts and now means an arduous travel, walking or biking over long distances for recreation. It is fun-filled activity in some way just like a long range patrolling carried out by the army.

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Walking over the rugged and remote terrain having no other good means of transport consists of going up and down the hills, crossing passes and coping with extremes of variable weather at high altitudes. In fact walking is the oldest means of transport in human history. It is quite a low-cost adventure and requires no other equipment except good stamina, patience and passion for observing nature. While real adventure in trekking is in the high mountains, an easier one can be undertaken in low hills all over the country. Such trek routes are marked especially in areas like Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and its neighbourhood.

The upper reaches of Kumaon-Garhwal Himalaya combine a number of long and short trekking routes for international trade and the pilgrimage to holy places in Tibet such as Kailash and Manasarovar.



— National Highway ——— Trekking Route • HEMIS Monastery

Fig. 30.11 Trekking Routes in Ladakh

**(ii) Mountaineering :** The mountainscape and its high Himalayan peaks are not only attracting the foreigners but even Indian climbers. Nain Singh and Kishan Singh mentioned earlier were the first Indian mountaineers. Their history does not end with Tenzing Norgay, one of the Everest conquerors. A great number of our countrymen and women and the foreigners have been successful climbers



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with far less equipment. Bachendri Pal's name stands high in the list of India's heroic women mountaineers and high-altitude trekkers. As the time goes, Everest climbing has turned into a fully commercialized mountaineering activity. A large number of parties from different countries get a prior booking from the Nepalese Government on payment of lakhs of rupees. It includes payment for the services of Sherpa guides. Also it covers charges for transport and delivery of the equipment on the spot. Since it is the sole resource to exploit for earning a living, the activity sustains the Sherpa population concentrated at the base of the peak. It is also the greatest foreign exchange earner for the economy of Nepal. It reconfirms the economic value of mountaineering for India and also the need to conserve the natural beauty of our mountains.

High Himalayas in the northern half of Himachal Pradesh have many ranges of snow capped peaks, glaciers and deep valleys. There are nearly 150 peaks, one after every 20 km. On an average each peak is over 5400 meters high.. For long it was considered a disrespect to go over the mountain summits. For this reason many of them remain unnamed and unclimbed. Easy weather conditions from May to October and an expensive network of roads upto their bases compensates the technical difficulties requiring equipment and training. In Jammu and Kashmir, there are a series of mountain peaks in the Pir Panjal, Great Himalaya, Zanskar, Ladakh and Karakoram ranges passing through the state. These are between 5000 and 7000 meters high. One can even look to the neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Tibet (China) from their tops.

Uttaranchal Himalayas have an additional advantage of nearness from Delhi. The traditional source of the Ganga river, a few km above the Gaumukh's ice cave, is considered one of the best mountaineering areas in the world. There is a congregation of a number of glaciers, high-altitude lakes and the peaks. Eastwards, Sikkim Himalayas open a window to the traditions of its people by viewing chortens and prayer flags all along the mountain trails. The five areas in North Sikkim having high peaks and Khangchendzonga (Kanchanjunga) reaching the height of over 8000 metres, only two of these are open to mountain climbers so far because of crucial border with Tibet. The watching of the glaciated landscape and walking over them at heights over 3700 metres is no less attractive. The beauty of the glaciers, ice caves and the glacial lakes from which our rivers draw their perennial water supply cannot be conveyed through words.

The Indian Mountaineering Institutes at Manali, Darjeeling and Uttar Kashi and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation at Delhi help in organising and sponsoring the mountaineering expeditions. They arrange to broadcast special weather bulletins over the All India radio, provide information to the climbers and coordinate with the Indian Air Force for rescue work during emergencies. Regulating the expeditions by disallowing too frequent and too many of them is

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required to protect the fragile environment in the high altitude zone. Littering along the trails needs to be checked in days to come. There are wider opportunities for rock climbing even along the foothills of outer Himalaya, Sahyadris and the Central Indian Hill ranges.

**(iii) Winter sport resorts :** Skiing is one of the most popular winter sports on the snowy slopes of the Himalaya. In Himalayan region of India, there is ice and the snow terrain available all the year round. The excitement of skiing can convince tourists that this country has something more to offer besides temples, monuments, fairs and the colourful festivals. Gulmarg at 2730 metres height is not just a hill resort but has the highest ski ground of India. This sport is the most well-developed in country's largest and best equipped resort. Snow lies thick enough from December to April and there are ski lifts, chair cars and the ropeways. There are instructors providing 10-21 days, skiing and mountaineering courses. The ski mountaineering route reaches the alpine meadow of Khilanmarg, five km up at 3045 metres. The Alpather lake lies only another eight km away at the base of Apharwat peak at 4135 metres height. Its slopes were studied to develop heli-skiing. In January, 1988, it was started here in India- the first country in Asia to introduce the sport. The skier is dropped to the top of the ridge by helicopter from where the tourist can slide down. It saves the skier the difficult task of climbing up the terrain. The game was banned in France considering the noise of the helicopters disturbing the mountain fauna. In Canada, skiers are often trapped by the bad weather in tracts, far away from civilisation.

Kashmir has the advantage that its area is so large, valleys so vast that such problems are not expected. The project earns normally more than half a million dollars a year. The high cost of heliskiing restricts the game to richer tourists from Europe and North America.

In Himachal Pradesh, Narkanda amidst coniferous forest at 2,700 meters altitude overlooking Sutlej river is only 64 km north of Shimla along the Hindustan Tibet National Highway. Six to 10 meters thick snow lies from January to April all along the slopes from Hathu peak to Stokes' famous apple lands at Kotgarh. Another place known as Kufri near Narkanda and Shimla is also taking off for this sport. The extensive slopes along Solang Nala close to Manali has fine weather favouring skiing both during winter and part of the summer seasons. In Garhwal Himalaya, a ski resort of Auli near Joshimath on way to Badrinath has been developed for this sport. The place affords a view of Nanda Devi summit and its adjoining area. A cable car largest in Asia connects Joshimath at about 2,000 meters height to the top slope of Kauri pass at 3,900 meters. But the lack of warm water during freezing cold in the morning, inefficient heating and medical facilities and low quality of equipment like ski boots are the current handicaps at Auli.



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There are good golf grounds at Gulmarg, the highest in the world, at Naldera near Shimla and in Naintal's Raj Bhawan estate for promoting golf tourism as a promoting tourist industry. While skating sink on frozen ice has been developed within Shimla town and near Gulmarg, now surfing can be looked forward to in years to come.

**(iv) Hang gliding and Paragliding :** These two sports give the thrill of soaring high in sky like an eagle. In Paragliding the aerofoil wings are ten times lighter than the wings used in hang gliding. Paragliding is popular among adventure-loving tourists; hang gliding is now confined to competitive events. Centers for this sport are marked in low and medium valleys of Bilaspur, Manali and Bir(Kangra) in Himachal Pradesh and at Udagamandalam in Tamil Nadu. Lack of good trainers and the high cost of equipment are the hurdles yet to overcome.

**(v) Water sports tourism :** River rafting has tremendous scope for its promotion in India. So far such areas are limited to Ganga near Rishikesh, Beas near manali and part of the Indus in ladakh. But Teesta in Sikkim, Brahmaputra in Assam, Chandra in Lahaul (Himachal Pradesh) and Bharali in Arunachal Pradesh offer excellent conditions for adding to this list. There is the need to replace costly imported equipment by manufacturing indigenous equipment and to provide trainers and river guides. India has numerous natural as well as man-made lakes to promote aquatic games like sailing, angling of the prized trout fish in cold mountain torrents and wind surfing. Besides the lakes, there is a long coastline ranging from roaring sea waves at Goa to calmer waters of the coral reefs along our two islands groups. So far, the arrangements for the best developed water games exist in two lakes, one is the Pong dam in Himachal Pradesh and the other in Umiam near Shillong. The first water sports festival organised at Panaji on the banks of Mandavi river in Goa has proved that it can offer much more than the fun, sun and swim on its beaches. A number of rivers and canals criss crossing Goa's coastal strip have the potential to develop water games if good instructors and cheaper equipment are supplied to attract more of home tourists.

The clear sea water among the corals of Lakshadweep and Andaman-Nicobar islands provides ideal sites for developing diving sports for the most adventurous tourists. In the sport of scrubing, a person plunges head long 40-50 meters into the sea from a boat. Similar is the peaceful game of snorkeling in which a fibre glass mask is used to cover eyes and the nose under waters. The scuba and snorkel are the names of the breathing and protective apparatus carried down by the divers upto the limit of sunlight in the sea. These sports give a feeling of thrill, a person experiences weightlessness while roaming among the shoals of fishes.

**(vi) Cave tourism :** Although India has a large number of caves and rock-cut temples, they have not so far been considered for the promotion of cave tourism.

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There are as many as 30 caves around Aurangabad, Ajanta being the most popular a pair of them at Chitrakoot with stream water flowing along their base. There is a story that Ram and Lakshman held court in these caves, sitting on a slab of rock inside. There are about 500 caves in Central India around Pachmarhi and Bhimbetka near Bhopal. Many of them provided rock shelters to pre-historic dwellers in seven different periods in the area's rocky terrain and dense forests. Some of them possess cave paintings of the early man. The twin hill of Khandagiri and Udaygiri near Bhubaneswar have caves showing rock sculptures and Jain images.

There are beautiful caves near Cherrapunji in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya in Limestone rocks with well developed stalagmite and stalactite formations. A recent discovery of Asia's longest 19.2 km cave in this state besides 200 others in the Jaintia hills has proved a turning point. So far the promotion of cave tourism has remained an unknown concept. But now the state has brought out a special brochure on its caves and has arranged a package tour to them.

**(vii) Wilderness tourism :** Even Africa does not offer half as much diversity in flora and fauna as India. India has rich biological diversity besides its well-known cultural heritage. Wilderness tourism develops on National parks, sanctuaries and the wet-lands of all types, already discussed in an earlier chapter. Wild life broadly includes entire uncultivated range of flora and fauna and so all the forms of life living in wilderness or growing without the direct intervention of humans. Plants, major mammals and insects are its essential constituents. The most popular wilderness resorts for ( wild life loving ) tourists are summed up below :

The Kashmir valley shelters Hangul or Kashmir stag or Musk deer at Dachigam sanctuary. The first ever National Park named after Corbett is situated in the Naini Tal foot hills. It provides a natural habitat to the wild elephants and tigers. It further extends into Nepal territory. The Kanha National Park situated mid-way between the Vindhya and Satpura hills of Madhya Pradesh is a home of tigers, panthers and spotted deer or chital and Bhandhavgarh, close to it, is specially renowned for tigers. The bird sanctuary of Ghana near Bharatpur in Rajasthan is known for migratory birds coming from central and northern Asia. There are also its permanent residents namely the water fowls. The Melghat in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra provides seclusion to tigers and panthers. Gir forests in Saurashtra is the only home now left for Asian lion. In the Bandipur National Park in the western ghats of Karnataka are found elephants and in Rajasthan great Indian Bustard - a large sized crane. The Chilka lake in Orissa has a large aquatic fauna including birds. Kaziranga National Park in Assam is well known for its one-horn rhinos. The Manas National Park in Assam along the borders of Bhutan possesses elephants, tigers as well as rhinos. In far south i.e. in Periyar

**Notes**

National Park of Kerela, the wild boars, elephants and barking deer are common. The proposed park near Khajuraho or Orcha is expected to protect 800 bears. India can rightfully boast to possess a wide variety of natural habitants in its wide plateaus, shallow watery marshes, deep ravines, marshy grasslands and brackish lagoon waters. Locate all these varied habitants on the map.

The opening up of new areas in National Parks and introduction of eco-friendly transport within them not to scare the animals are the two incentives to promote wild life tourism.

Side by side the wildernesses need to be protected from the influx of trekkers, hikers and mountaineers. A sound policy for promotion of tourism calls for creation of awareness for conservation of wild life among the local people without looking for only immediate and heavy cash returns. No wild life can be protected without protecting the proper environment for it.

- Adventure sports like trekking, mountaineering and rock climbing, river rafting, water and snow skiing, hang-gliding, golf-tourism, visits to wild life habitat and caves are carried on in off-the-beat tourist destinations.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 30.6**

1. Name the locations reputed for the following animals:  
Asiatic lion; Hangul or Stag ; One horn Rhino ; Water fowls ; Wild boars.
2. Locate the three Indian Mountaineering Institutes on a map. What are their functions ?
3. What are the specific advantages of heliskiing at Gulmarg in Kashmir unlike the conditions in France ?

**WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT**

You have studied the meaning of today's organised tourism by contrasting it with example of old time tourist and their travels. Tourism is now further divided into a number of primary types on different bases. Recreation or entertainment and holidaying has become a part and parcel of any type of modern tourism.

India's resources for developing tourism have a great potential. Apart from diversities of weather and climate, there is a rich biodiversity consisting of

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### Geography of Tourism in India



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protected plants, wild animals and birds in areas of wilderness away from clusters of human population.

Next are the scenic landscape reserves of mountains, their peaks and snowy slopes, hills, scaps, cliffs, varied rock formations, caves, and water bodies including wetlands of many types. Seascapes tourist resources are marked along our coastal water comprising a variety of beaches of great promise.

The terraced gradens along hillsides, enclosed fields and open grasslands in quieter rural countryside many of these created by man, are other resources in the lot.

Our rich cultural heritage extending over centuries of history is another great weather enriching Indian tourism. A great variety of performing arts and festivals carry a great appeal for tourists in this ancient modern land of ours. The increasing number of incoming tourists have brought jobs for millions of local people directly or indirectly.

All these resources of modern tourism are of great relevance for earning revenue particularly in the current era of world-wide economic reforms.

Tourist resorts are classified inter mountain and hill resorts, beach resorts, cultural centres of great variety and destinations developed for many types of adventure tourism. All these are categorised on the basis of their location, site characteristics and scope for variety of attractions for the tourists. The places within easy access and developed for providing accommodation and other amenties become popular for drawing the largest number of tourist. However, off the beat tourist destinations in difficult areas are meant for those who have adventurous sports like river rafting, mountaineering, water and snow games or costly ventures like hang gliding, para gliding, golf playing and helisking.



## TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions in brief:
  - (i) What type of beaches are rated high in their value for tourism?
  - (ii) Which items are included in historical and cultural tourist resources of India ?
2. Cite six important reasons making mountains attractive for tourists during summers.

**Notes**

3. Distinguish between the following :
  - (i) Tourist and tourism.
  - (ii) Tourist generating and tourist destination areas.
4. Describe the factors determining the growth of modern tourism.
5. Tick one correct item in each of the following group of statements :
  - (i) (a) Large number of mountain resorts are in the Himalaya between 1200 and 2100 metres above sea level.  
(b) large number of hill resorts are between 800 and 1200 metres height.
  - (ii) (a) Nearness of a hill resort from a city is a great locational advantage to it.  
(b) its nearness from a city is helpful even if it is not easily accessible.  
(c) Nearness of a hill resort from a city reduces the tourist influx.
  - (iii) (a) Beach tourism cannot be developed along Konkan and Gujarat coast.  
(b) Beach tourism is well developed along Kerala and Goa coast.
  - (iv) (a) Growth of numerous sects and religions have multiplied the number of pilgrim centres.  
(b) People developed pilgrim centres on getting bored by seeing forts and palaces.
6. Locate the following in the outline map of India obtained by you :  

A fort city in Rajasthan, places where Mecca Masjid and Shah Hamadan masjid are situated, places where Jallianwala Bagh, Cellular jail, Sabarmati ashram, Sanchi stupa, Solar monastery and a mountaineering Institute of west Bengal are situated.
7. Distinguish between the following :
  - (i) Mountaineering and trekking
  - (ii) River rafting and scrubing
  - (ii) Skating and skiing
  - (iv) Paragliding and hang gliding
8. Cancel out one wrong item in each of the following not belonging to the category :
  - (i) Ujjain/ Kangra/ Jammu/ Varanasi / Kohima
  - (ii) Gwalior/ Lohgarh/Dilwara/Jaisalmer/Golconda



- (iii) Doe Tiba/Rup kund/Harmukh/Shivling

(iv) Haldighati/Rishikonda/Malpa/Gopalpur/Ahmaedpur-mandvi

9. Give reasons for the following :

  - (i) Coral sea is more suitable for scrubing sport.
  - (ii) There are many sanctuaries for tiger but few for Hangul, Great Bustard and the Rhino.
  - (iii) Uttaranchal recordeds a great influx of pilgrim tourists but it remains an area of low developed tourism.



## **ANSWER TO INTEXT QUESTIONS**

30.1



30.2

1. India has a much longer time for outdoor activities during the year that's why it's called 'prized tourist destination'.
  2. Lake of Kolleru is Asia's largest fresh water lake and it is situated between deltas of Krishna and Godavari and 32 km from the Sea.
  3. Seven Delhis constructed in the same area over a period of 455 years between 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

30.3

1. (i) Provision of paid leave (ii) Travel concessions
  2. (i) Infrastructure; (ii) Push/pull

**Notes****30.4**

1. (i) Shimla (ii) Shillong (iii) Pahalgam (iv) Nainital
2. (i) A palm fringed health resort, (ii) calm and temperate sea water, (iii) free of sharks (iv) ideal for water games like wind surfing and water skiing.
3. Dissected landscape, proximity to a city, nearness to a snowline.
4. (i) Juhu (ii) Puri (iii) Marina

**30.5**

1. (i) Buddhists (ii) Sikhs (iii) Jains (iv) Hindus (v) Muslims (vi) Christians
2. (i) Badrinath in the North, Dwarka in the West, Jagannath Puri in the East and Rameshwaram in the South.  
(ii) Hill top river confluences lakesides, forest groves, islands and nucleus of a settlement. (any three)

**30.6**

1. Gir in Gujarat; Dachigam in Kashmir; Kaziranga or Manas in Assam; Ghana near Bharatpur (Rajasthan); Periyar in Kerala.
2. Indian Mountaineering Institutes at Darjeeling, Uttar Kashi, and Manali in West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh respectively. These institutes organise and sponsor mountaineering expeditions. They help the climbers in getting information through special weather bulletins and rescuing them during emergencies.
3. Heliskiing has been banned in France because the noise of the helicopter, dropping the skies up the slope, disturbed the mountain fauna. In Canada, it has also been stopped because the skies could not be easily reached in bad weather, being far away from civilisation. Gulmarg in Kashmir has the advantages of slopes being in range area and in a vast valley both highly favourable for it.

**HINTS TO TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

1. (i) Refer to 30.6  
(ii) Refer to 30.7
2. Refer to 3(A) under 30.9
3. (i) Refer to 30.1  
(ii) Refer to 30.3

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4. Refer to 30.8
5. (i) a; (ii) a; (iii) c; (iv) c
6. Make use of maps given in the lesson
7. (i) Refer to D. (ii) under 30.9; (iii) Refer to water sports under 30.9. (iv) Refer to 30.9D. (iii). (iv) Refer to hang gliding and para gliding under 30.9D
8. Cancel Kohima in (i); Dilwara in (ii); Rupkund in (iii); Haldighati in (iv)
9. (i) Refer to (v) water sports, under 30.9D  
(ii) Because these species have become rare and have been on the verge of extinction.  
(iii) Places of pilgrimage become popular irrespective of any development of tourist facilities, due to age old devotion of the people. Other attractive places in Uttarakhand are by and large undeveloped.