

## AFFECTS OF TERRORISM ON TOURISM INDUSTRY IN THE HIMALAYAN REGION

A CASE STUDY OF VARIOUS TOURIST DESTINATIONS OF HIMALAYAN REGION IN INDIA.

Mr. Vikram Singh

Assistant Regional Director, RC Jammu, IGNOU.

**Abstract:-** Tourism is one of the main industry for various Indian states located in the Himalayan region, it has created employment opportunity and made the states of this region economically self sufficient, by generating revenue and foreign currency to promote infrastructural development. Tourism activities have a positive effect on the destination because it generates jobs directly through hotels, restaurants, souvenir and handicraft sales. Indirectly, jobs are generated through supply of goods and services required for tourism activities. The Indian states located in the Himalayan region are underdeveloped and have no other source of generating income; tourism has become an important source of revenue generation and a component for economic and infrastructural development for these states. The Indian Himalayan region stretches over 2,500 km from Jammu and Kashmir in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. This great chain of mountains in Indian territory extends all along the northern border of the country from the eastern border of the Pakistan on the west to the frontiers of Myanmar in the east covering partially/fully twelve states of India, viz., Jammu and Kashmir, Himanchal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya and hills of Assam and West Bengal (Fig. 1). All these states have angelic mix of rejuvenating gardens displaying colorful flowers, charming lakes, thick forests teeming with wildlife, inviting rivers and rich cultural heritage which makes the states lying in the Indian Himalayan region one of the favourite tourist destinations, various tourism policies have been formulated by state as well as central government to promote these destinations, promotional campaigns like, "Incredible India" has promoted all these states not only at national level but also internationally. The affect of these promotional campaigns is positive as there is increase in arrival of tourist to these destinations, but for tourism to flourish you need a peaceful environment and out of these twelve states seven states are affected by one or another form of terrorist activities so the positive affect of these promotional campaigns on tourist' s mind turns into a negative affect when a destination promoted by these campaigns come under terrorist attack.

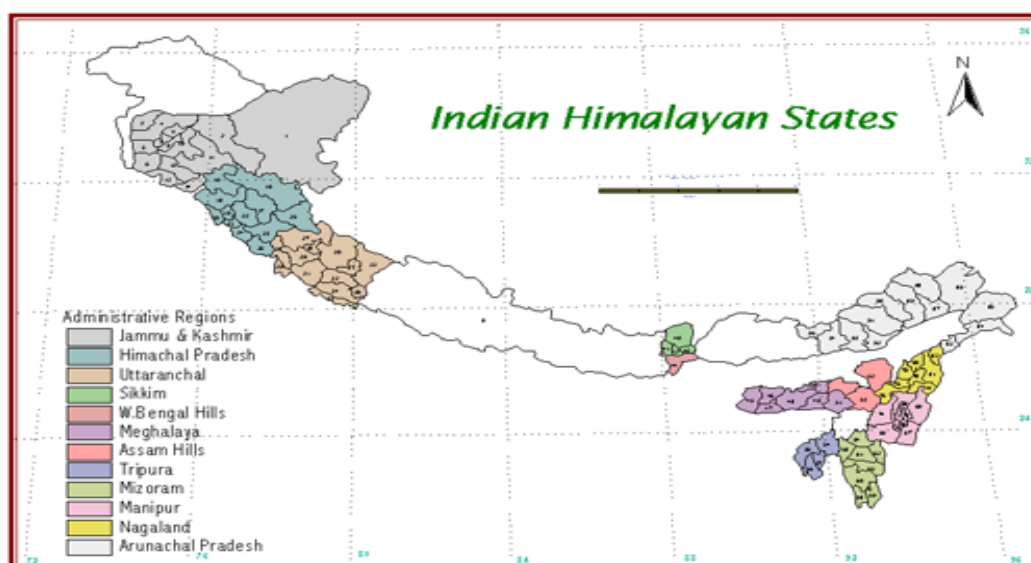


Fig: 1

Source: [www.gbpihed.gov.in/envis/indian\\_him\\_reg.htm](http://www.gbpihed.gov.in/envis/indian_him_reg.htm)

Affect of terrorism on tourism industry in the Indian states of Himalayan region can lead to unemployment, deflation, crime and many other social ills. The affects of terrorism on tourism industry in these states of Himalayan region should be

discussed because some states have already seen the affects of terrorism and by looking at the strategies adopted by these states to combat terrorism we could prepare for future and make our present safe.

Affect of terrorism on tourism industry in the neighboring countries in Himalayan region:

Terrorism has not only affected the states lying in the Indian Himalayan Region but it has shown its affect on the neighbouring countries of the Indian Himalayan Region like Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar. Affect of terrorism on tourism in these countries have varying affects depending upon the number of incidents. As we all know that the worst affect of terrorism on tourism is in the countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan because of the number of terrorist incidents. The terrorist incidents in these countries have created fear psychoses in the mind of tourists and also various countries have issued warnings to their national' s not to visit these countries. The data given on the next page shows the number of incidents in recent years and affect of Terrorism on Tourism in Pakistan:

Annual Fatalities in Terrorist Violence in Pakistan from (2008-2010)

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists/Insurgents	Total
2008	2155	654	3906	6715
2009	2307	1011	8267	11585
2010*	247	93	532	872
Total	7875	2969	15118	25942

\* Data till February 15, 2010 Year 2010

Source: [www.satp.org](http://www.satp.org)

Comparison of Foreign Tourist Arrivals in Pakistan from (2007 to 2009)

Months	Foreign Tourist Arrivals (In No)		
	2007	2008	2009
Total	8,39,517	8,22,828	2,89,505

Source: The Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Tourism website [www.tourism.gov.pk](http://www.tourism.gov.pk)

Depending upon the number incidents in each neighbouring country of the Indian Himalayan Region, there is decrease in the tourist activity but some countries have been able to revive tourism industry in their country, like in case of Nepal, which was affected by Maoist activities government took initiative to talk to them so that they could come forward to join main stream politics and they were successful in that on April 10, 2008 - The CPN (Maoist) participates in the 2008 Constituent Assembly election. The party gained around 30% of the vote, giving them 220 of the 575 elected seats (38%)<sup>[13]</sup> and were nominated

for 9 additional seats by the council of ministers, giving them a total of 229 of the 601 seats overall. The data given below shows the decrease in the number of incidents in the recent past:

Fatalities in Nepal from (2005-2009)

Year	Civilians	SFs	Insurgents	Total
2009*	35	1	13	49
2008	55	1	25	81
2007	57	0	40	97
2006	61	181	238	480
2005	231	310	1307	1848

Source: Institute for Conflict Management

\* Data till November 01, 2009

Source: [www.satp.org](http://www.satp.org)

According to the data available on [www.tourism.gov.np](http://www.tourism.gov.np), “The tourist arrival in the year 2008-2009, by air has increased by 5.5 percent in the month of September this year compared to the same month last year, figures released by Immigration Office, Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), revealed. According to the statement, 34,281 foreigners visited Nepal this month. There has been a robust growth of 32 percent in tourist arrivals from China. Similarly, arrivals from Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand have also increased by 25.1 percent, 2 percent, 25 percent and 43.6 percent respectively. In aggregate the Asian segment has registered a positive growth of 22.5 percent”. This shows that if there is decrease in the terrorist activity tourism has the capacity to revive itself and generate revenue.

Strategies adopted by terrorists and its repercussions:

Today the tourist inflow to a destination depends upon, how peaceful is the destination and terrorism has become one of the major strategies adopted by terrorist to make environment of a destination hostile, so that tourist stop visiting that destination. Now days due to increased security scenario all around the world terrorist are adopting new strategies to target tourist. Few of the strategies adopted by terrorist are as under:

- Incidents of attacks on infrastructure like hotels, restaurants, bars, cinema halls also create a sense fear among local population and tourist, the repercussion of these incidents are drop in tourist arrival and affect on the business activities related to tourism.
- Hoaxes, particularly bomb threats have been employed on occasions to seriously disrupt transportation and tourism, causing a significant local impact.
- Internet is a new and very powerful resource used at present by terrorist to access information, spread propaganda, raise funds, communicate and plan operations.
- Terrorists now are concentrating to inflict more damage to the foreign nationalists to get worldwide coverage of media and its repercussion are that the destination that has been attacked gets highlighted as destination affected by terrorism.
- Kidnapping and hostage taking has become the most common weapon of terrorist to inflict damage to not only life of innocent civilian, but also to spread fear and rescue their fellow members in the jails.

All these strategies adopted by terrorists create a sense of fear not only among locale, but also tourists who want to visit these destinations. These terrorist activities have a negative impact on the economy of tourist destination, because tourism being the only source of income for these tourist destination, so by affecting the tourist arrival, the terrorist affect the destinations economy which leads to unemployment, deflation, crime and many other social ills.

Indian states lying in the Himalayan region affected by terrorism:

The Indian Himalayan region stretches over 2,500 km from Jammu and Kashmir in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. This great chain of mountains in Indian territory extends all along the northern border of the country from the eastern border of the Pakistan on the west to the frontiers of Myanmar in the east covering partially/fully twelve states of India, viz., Jammu

and Kashmir, Himanchal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya and hills of Assam and West Bengal. Out of these twelve states seven are facing the menace of terrorism in one form or another which can be made clear by the following:

<b>States affected by terrorism</b>	<b>Terrorist Organisations</b>
Jammu and Kashmir	<u>Hizb-ul Mujahideen</u> (militant wing of the Islamic organisation Jamat-e-Islami), <u>Harkat-ul-Ansar</u> and <u>Lashkar-e-Toiba</u>
Assam	<u>United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA)</u> , <u>National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)</u> , <u>Bodo Liberation Tiger Force (BLTF)</u>
Manipur	<u>People's Republican Army (PRA)</u> , <u>National Socialist Council of Nagaland--Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM)</u> , <u>Kuki National Army (KNA)</u> , <u>Kuki National Front (KNF)</u>
Meghalaya	<u>Hynniewtre National Liberation Council (HNLC)</u> ; <u>Achik National Volunteer Council (ANVC)</u> ; and <u>People's Liberation Front of Meghalaya (PLF-M)</u>
Mizoram	<u>Bru National Liberation Front (BNLF)</u> , <u>Chin National Army (CNA)</u> and <u>the United National Liberation Front (UNLF)</u>
Nagaland	<u>National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN)</u> , <u>National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Khaplang (NSCN-K)</u> , <u>National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM)</u> and <u>Naga National Council (NNC)</u> .
Tripura	<u>Amra Bangali (We Are Bengalis)</u> , <u>Tripura National Volunteers (TNV)</u> , <u>All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF)</u> , <u>National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT)</u> and <u>Borok National Council of Tripura (BNCT)</u>

These are the few terrorist organizations which are operating in these seven states of the Indian Himalayan Region and due to their activities the tourism industry in these regions is badly hit, as we all know that peace is the prerequisite for tourism to flourish. So until the activities of these terrorist groups are brought under control no tourism policy for development of these destinations can achieve the desired result

#### Initiatives taken to combat terrorism in these states:

Initiatives taken by these states are based on the Action Plan that was developed by **Dr.S.Subramanian, I.P.S. (Retd.)**. According to him, "Terrorism has spread across the Nation and is claiming hundreds of innocent lives with sickening regularity. Notwithstanding their differing ideologies, all terrorists, be they Pak inspired secessionists of J&K; ULFA extremists of Assam; LTTE of Tamil Nadu; and Left extremists of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, have one common aim of disrupting this great Democracy and wrecking the unity of the Nation".

An ACTION PLAN to combat Terrorism consisting of : (a) Political initiative ; (b) Improving the Quality of intelligence inputs; (c) upgrading the anti-terrorist capability of State Police Forces; (d) Coordination of operations; (e) Role of Media; (f) Human Right activities; and (g) Proactive actions.

#### Political Initiative:

A National consensus should be developed on the strategy to combat terrorism cutting across Party lines. The message should go loud and clear to the Terrorists that all Political parties are united in defending the integrity of the Nation and abhor use of violence in solving political problems. While political demands are negotiable and the Terrorists are welcome to the discussion table, there would be no scope for discussions on fundamental ideals on which our Republic is founded. A

National Movement to galvanise people to resist terrorism and support the counter-terrorist activities of the State should be launched by political parties.

#### Improving the Quality of Intelligence Inputs:

Precise and pin-pointed operational intelligence is essential to achieve victory over the Terrorists. While the Central Intelligence agencies may be able to provide strategic intelligence, grass-root operational intelligence has to be generated only by local efforts. The State and District intelligence units are in great disarray and in need of massive doses of professional inputs to achieve the desired results. A well thought out time bound plan for upgrading the professional skills of local intelligence units is to be implemented by the central Government. This task could be assigned to the Intelligence Bureau. Simultaneously, a review has to be made of the intelligence set up of the Central Police Organisations and they should be restructured and reoriented to work in close cooperation with the IB. At present large volume of information available with the field units of Central Police Organisations and the States remain unutilised. Major organisations like CRPF do not even have their own intelligence units. These lacunae are to be rectified.

#### Upgrading the anti-terrorist capabilities of State Police Forces:

Police Forces in the States today are not geared to meet the challenges posed by terrorism. They are bereft of modern weapons, training and professional skills.. The basic requirements of State Police Forces are: Modern weapons - SLR 7.62; 9 mm carbines and pistols; Grenade launchers; LMGs, Mortars and in small quantities, MMG and Rocket Launchers. They need Bullet Proof vests, night vision devices and communication equipment. There are no facilities for anti-terrorist training in the States.

It is sad to read the reported comments of the Union Home Minister that there is a general shortage of weapons owing to the demands of the Army and limited production capacity. It was also mentioned that the States have not been able to lift the weapons and ammunition allotted to them. Given proper incentives and direction, Indian Ordnance Factories are capable of meeting the full demands of the State Police Forces. They are suffocating under unreasonable restrictions and are not able to operate on commercial lines. The procedure for the States to obtain Arms and Ammunition from the Ordnance Factories is archaic and cumbersome. Too many agencies and too much of paper work are involved. If the States are permitted to directly procure their requirements from Ordnance Factories as a commercial transaction, much of the hassles faced by them now would disappear. As an alternative, the Union Home Ministry should procure these from Ordnance factories and distribute them to the States. By proper management of available resources, it should be possible to provide the States with the needed weapons.

There are no instructors with the States to teach their personnel about modern generation weapons. No wonder that this ill trained and equipped force is not able to give a good account of itself against terrorists. There is an urgent need to open training centre' s in Counter-terrorism in each zone of the country and train the State Police personnel in counter-terrorist tactics and in handling of modern weapons and explosives. A mandatory twelve week Anti-terrorist course for every personnel of the State Armed Police Organisations will yield rich dividends and upgrade the professional skills of these personnel. State Police Forces also need fast moving transport, better communication facilities and specialised counter-terrorist equipments.

#### Coordination of Operations:

To achieve maximum results, the on going operations in various States are to be coordinated from a central point. Neither the Union Home Ministry nor the IB has the expertise to oversee and coordinate operations. There is need to establish in the Union Home Ministry a professionally competent Directorate of Operations which should be responsible for planning and executing counter terrorist operations on an All India basis.

#### Role of Media:

Media has to realise its responsibilities in assisting the State in fighting terrorism. While freedom of expression and the basic right for information are to be valued and safeguarded, Media should not unwittingly provide the Terrorists free and undeserved publicity. Terrorism thrives on Publicity and once this is denied, it will die a natural death.

Human Rights activists:

Human rights deserve to be protected and any violation is to be fought with vigour. But the principles of protection of civil liberties and human rights are to be applied to all. While taking up the cause of civil liberties and human rights, activists should avoid giving an impression that they are championing the cause of the terrorists and ignoring that of the victims. An even handed approach would yield the desired results.

Proactive actions:

The State should follow the principle of ‘offence is the best defence’ policy in dealing with terrorists. Without ushering in State terrorism, all the tricks in the bag, including ‘pre-emptive strikes’ at terrorist bases and training centers are to be contemplated. Terrorism cannot be wished away nor will it disappear on its own. It has to be met head on and annihilated with resoluteness, dedication and perseverance. The steps mentioned above are bound to produce expected results.”

The strategies adopted now days by all the states of Indian Himalayan region affected by militancy and also other terrorism affected areas of the country are based on the Action Plan that was formulated by **Dr.S.Subramanian, I.P.S. (Retd.)**, presented in the meeting held by the Union Home Minister with the Chief Ministers of Terrorist affected States on February 29, 1992 at New Delhi.

Strategies adopted by other Indian states of Himalayan region to prepare for future and make our present safe from the affects of terrorism:

The strategies adopted by various States of the Indian Himalayan Region affected by terrorism can show a path to the rest of the states to tackle terrorism and in this way these states can prepare for their future and make their present safe. The strategies adopted by the states affected by terrorism have shown their result on ground as we can see from the improvement in situation in Jammu and Kashmir. There is marked difference in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir as the number of terrorist related incidents has dropped as shown in the table below:

Fatalities in Terrorist Violence in J&K from (2006 – 2010)

Year	Incidents	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists	Total
2006	NA	349	168	599	1116
2007	NA	164	121	492	777
2008	NA	69	90	382	541
2009	NA	55	78	244	377
2010*	NA	6	9	25	40
Total	47234	14572	5926	22199	42697

\* Data till February 15, 2010

Source: [www.satp.org](http://www.satp.org)

As the number of terrorist incidents decreased the state saw revival in tourism industry as shown by the figures in the table below:

2003		2004		2005	
domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
5748846	24330	6881473	40242	7239481	44345

**Source:** Indian Tourism Static' s 2005, Ministry of Tourism Market Research Division, Page. No-48

Strategies adopted by Government and security forces in J&K has helped the state to return back to the path of normalcy, the same strategies can be implemented in other states of the region also. The action Plan suggested by Dr.S.Subramanian, I.P.S. (Retd.) should also be implemented by other states of the region so that these states could make their present safe and prepare for the future.

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