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## Tourism and Peace in Economic Development Perspective of India

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### Abstract:

*The importance of tourism as an instrument for revenue generation, employment creation and fostering economic growth is well established across the globe. Globally, tourism has been recognised as the largest service sector in terms of revenue generation and foreign exchange earnings. The sector also plays a crucial role in attaining the macroeconomic goal of growth with equity. Thus, tourism has been considered and observed to contribute to world peace. But this peace contribution depends on social and politic stability which in turn depends on the economic development of a nation. So, in this paper an effort has been made to assess the role of tourism in India as an engine of peace oriented sustainable economic development. It is found that tourism has the potential to positively influence the sustainable development of the country. Therefore, it is imperative to chalk out appropriate plans and policies for promoting tourism as a means of achieving sustainable development and unending peace.*

**Keywords:** tourism; peace; poverty eradication; economic development; India

**JEL Classification:** C20; C50; L83; Z30; Z32

### Introduction

Tourism has emerged as a key sector of the world economy being motivated by the natural urge of every human being for new experience, adventure, education and entertainment (Rout 2016). Thus, it is a multifaceted sector which is seen as a human experience, social behaviour, geographic phenomenon, economic resource, and as a business. Historically, tourism has been considered as a key factor for socio-economic and cultural progress. Tourism plays an important role in achieving socio-economic objectives of unemployment reduction, poverty eradication, balanced regional development, improvement in balance of payments position, infrastructure development, and enhancing entrepreneurial skills and capabilities (Milanović and Stamenković 2012, Rout *et al.* 2016c). As a result, tourism has been taken up as an integral part of the strategies of national economic development. In general, it has been accepted that the tourism sector has the potential to influence the growth process of developing nations, and is able to put these countries in the high growth trajectory (Samimi *et al.* 2011).

Since 1960s, the tourism has been able to transform itself from a relatively small-scale sector into the largest and fastest growing global economic sector. This is very much reflected in the foreign tourist arrivals which over