

# FOREIGN TOURISTS TO INDIA GROW, BUT S-E ASIAN NATIONS OUTSCORE

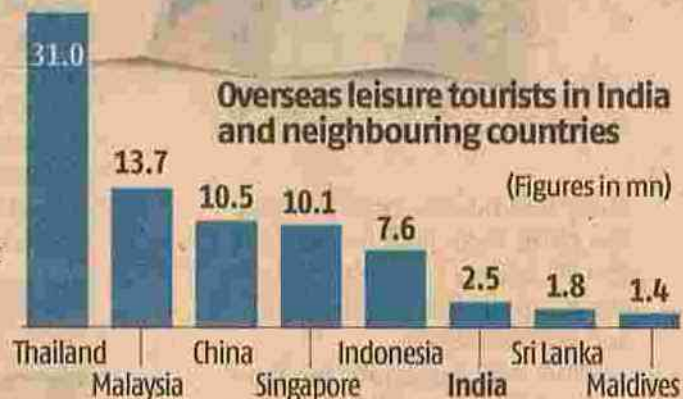
In 2017, 10.2 million foreign tourists arrived in India (including Bangladesh which is the largest source for tourists. Around 2.2 million tourists came from Bangladesh but a majority had not come for leisure). Arrivals grew 15.9 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

Aviation consultancy CAPA estimates India received only 2.5 million foreign leisure tourists in 2016, significantly lower than arrivals in South East Asian countries. Other purposes included business and medical-related and visiting friends and relatives. The UK, US, Malaysia, Russia and France were the top nations from where tourists had visited India for leisure purposes in 2016.

In 2017, around 8.5 million leisure tourists from China visited Thailand compared to an estimated 74,000 to India.

Over 60 per cent of India's inbound tourists are from long-haul destinations (flights of over six hours). Most of the largest tourism destinations depend on short and medium-haul markets (0-3 hours flights and 3-6 hours flights).

CAPA estimates 15-19 million foreign tourists will visit India in 2025 on the back of increased air connectivity and increase in popularity of e-visas. **ANEESH PHADNIS**



Data for India, China and Indonesia is of 2016 and other countries is of 2017. Data of leisure visitors to India is an estimate as tourism ministry does not give break-up of purpose of travel  
Source: CAPA (Aviation consultancy)