

## **Information, Publicity And Tourism**

The Directorate has an Information & Publicity wing, which is responsible for dissemination of information on the government 's policies and development programme in various sectors with the help of various media.

### **Tourism Sector**

Andaman & Nicobar Islands have recently been recognized as an eco-friendly tourist destination and a new haven for the tourists.

### **Tourist Arrival Statistics**

- The tourist traffic have grown gradually in the last two decades
- The slow but steady rise is more attributable to the constraints like non-availability of air and ship tickets, non availability of apex fares and lack of connectivity.

### **Policy**

#### **Existing Tourism Infrastructure**

Some of the important projects the Administration has undertaken to develop tourism in the islands over the last few years are as under:

- (i) Creation of tourist infrastructure
- (ii) Promoting Tourism accommodation in private sector
- (iii) Tourist Transport
- (iv) Promoting Water Sports
  - (a) Water Sports
  - (b) Scuba Diving
  - (c) Island Camping
  - (d) Snorkeling and coral viewing
  - (e) Trekking
  - (f) Tourist Police

Keeping in view the fragile ecology and limited carrying capacity of the islands, the objectives of A&N Administration is to start a harmony between environment and tourism. The focus is on:

- Promotion of high value low volume eco-friendly and environmentally sustainable tourism
- Administration playing the role of facilitator for encouraging private investment in various components like high quality resorts, adventure water sports etc.
- Marketing A&N Islands as a tourist destination

### **Constraints**

Further development and promotion of tourism in the islands is being hampered due to certain constraints. Some of which are as follows:-

1. Limited high quality Accommodation
2. Distance from Mainland
3. Fast inter-island ship connections
4. Poor-air connectivity with the cities of the mainland.