

ECOTOURISM IN ANDHRAPRADESH AND TELANGANA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Ecotourism is making significant positive contribution to the environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of destinations and local communities around the world and it is the growing segment of the global tourism industry. Ecotourism provides effective economic incentives for conserving and enhancing bio-cultural diversity and helps to protect the natural and cultural heritage of our beautiful planet. It is also an effective vehicle for empowering local communities around the world to fight against poverty and to achieve sustainable development. Furthermore, Ecotourism has provided an impetus to assist in greening the tourism industry on many fronts. The two Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have focussed on the concept of ecotourism. They have devised plans to make the greenery an attractive destination that is supposed to serve as a urban sink to provide a pollution-free environment for tourists to recharge themselves and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

The Present Study focusses on a comparative analysis of the domestic and foreign tourist arrivals, ecotourism initiatives and projects in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

KEYWORDS: Tourist, Domestic Tourist, Foreign Tourist, Ecotourism.

Introduction

Eco-Tourism involves traveling through different bio-diversity rich places for enjoyment and experience nature's beauty. The prime objective of Eco-Tourism is to provide environmental education as well earn revenue. The goal of Eco-tourism is to increase tourism and simultaneously conservation and preservation of the environment.

Andhra Pradesh is on the threshold of evolving as the most preferred tourist destination in the country. The State offers myriad experiences to tourists, and multifarious opportunities to investors. The proactive Tourism Policy, coupled with abundant and world-class tourism opportunities available in the State, shall place the State on the tourism map of the world. The intrinsic potential of developing Tourism Infrastructure Projects and Services in Andhra Pradesh, when leveraged effectively and creatively, would make the State highly competitive and possibly, unmatched across other domestic and international destinations.

Telangana, the 29th state of India, was formed on 2nd June 2014, with Hyderabad as its capital. The State has a rich cultural heritage. Tourists can visit Historical places, Monuments, Waterfalls, Forts, Forests and Temples. In the Vision 20-20 document, special emphasis has been laid on the promotion of Tourism and the Government is initiating various types of tourism such as heritage, pilgrim, religious, historical and cultural tourism, eco tourism, sports tourism and holiday tourism.

Review of Literature

Zaker Ul Oman, Rajesh Prabhakar kaila (2019)¹ focused on the marketing strategies adopted by the Telangana tourism officials in promoting Telangana tourism and presented that Tourism Marketing strategy is a master marketing outline to every destination provider and promoter. Online Marketing Dimensions such as facebook, twitter, youtube were also included in the study.

V Neeraja (2018)² highlighted the ecotourism places in Telangana and also examined the problems and opportunities in ecotourism and suggested to conduct various training programs to educate public to involve in ecotourism.

P. Kishan Rao (2018)³ brought forth the awareness about the ecotourism and the schemes introduced by the Central Government. The study focused on the efforts of the Government to promote Ecotourism in the State of Telangana. The study concludes with the strategies of marketing that can be adopted for good promotion of Ecotourism in the State

Jitender Singh and Sourabh munjal (2016)⁴ described Eco-tourism in AP and stated that Eco-tourism if promoted with appropriate levels of local community engagement will benefit those communities and will conserve our invaluable environmental heritage. The paper concluded that the Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP) has taken several initiatives including partnerships with private sector to promote Eco-tourism that are yielding excellent results.

Nomula Venkateshwarlu (2015)⁵ highlighted the different variants of ecotourism in East Godavari district of AP. The study reflected that there are many forms of tourism in East Godavari classified by typical features like nature, culture, heritage, time, health and so on. The study concluded that Ecotourism activity involves an important education and interpretation component as well as support for raising awareness on the necessity of natural and cultural capital preservation. Ecotourism must have minimum consequences on the environment and must also contribute to the welfare of local population.

G. Vidyasagar Reddy (1996)⁶ identified the potentialities of tourism in Andhra Pradesh. The study focused on the administrative setup of tourism in Andhra Pradesh and analysed the perception of tourists about facilities and services and suggested measures to improve and promote tourism industry. It was also observed that poor sanitation conditions, inadequate facilities regarding accommodation, food, transport,

communication, shortage of skilled workers and trained tourist guide etc are the major hurdles in the development of tourism in the state.

Research Gap

The above review of literature points to the fact that the studies are mainly related to the promotion of Telangana Tourism, problems and opportunities in Ecotourism, Ecotourism schemes introduced by the Central Government in Telangana state, Ecotourism initiatives undertaken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Environmental education and creation of awareness about Ecotourism in Andhra Pradesh and administrative set up of tourism in Andhra Pradesh.

Many studies have been made relating to tourism, ecotourism in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State, but a comparative study of ecotourism in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State after the bifurcation has not been made. Therefore, the study has been undertaken to make a comparative analysis of Ecotourism in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana relating to the domestic and foreign tourist arrivals, ecotourism initiatives and projects in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Need for the Study

Tourism accounts for one third of the Foreign Exchange Earnings of India. There are different types of tourism like Religious Tourism, Cultural Tourism, Wildlife Tourism, Medical Tourism, Ecotourism etc. Now-a-days, Ecotourism is gaining much prominence and the Government is also taking many initiatives to promote Ecotourism in the country to attract a large number of tourists. The Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states are known for many Ecotourism places. It is in this context, the study is undertaken with the objectives given below.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are

- ◀ To make a comparison of the Domestic Tourist Arrivals and Foreign Tourists Arrivals in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana before and after bifurcation of Telangana State.
- ◀ To make a comparison of Ecotourism initiatives in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana after bifurcation.
- ◀ To analyze the Ecotourism projects and Ecotourism places in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana after bifurcation.

Methodology

◀ **Sources of Data:** The study is based on secondary data. The Secondary data sources include Research Articles, Websites, Reports of World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) and Ministry of Tourism.

◀ **Period of the Study:** The study covers a period of 6 years from 2011-12 to 2016-17 for a comparison of tourist arrivals in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana i.e. before and after bifurcation. In the year 2014, Telangana

got bifurcated from Andhra Pradesh and formed as a separate state. Hence, 3 years before and after bifurcation are taken.

A comparison of ecotourism initiatives, projects and ecotourism places in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is made after bifurcation i.e. 2014-15 to 2016-17.

Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1:

Ho: There is no significant difference in the tourist arrivals (Domestic & Foreign) to Andhra Pradesh before and after bifurcation of the state

H1: There is a significant difference in the tourist arrivals (Domestic & Foreign) to Andhra Pradesh before and after bifurcation of the state

Hypothesis 2:

Ho: There is no significant difference in the tourist arrivals (Domestic & Foreign) to Telangana before and after bifurcation of the state

H1: There is a significant difference in the tourist arrivals (Domestic & Foreign) to Telangana before and after bifurcation of the state

Hypothesis 3:

Ho: There is no significant difference in the tourist arrivals (Domestic & Foreign) to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

H1: There is a significant difference in the tourist arrivals (Domestic & Foreign) to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

◀ **Statistical Tools:** The data are analysed with the help of the following tools.

* CAGR: to analyze the growth in tourists over a period of time

* 't' test: to test the above hypotheses

Tourists arrivals to Andhra Pradesh before and after bifurcation of the state

Tourist is a person who is visiting a place for pleasure and interest especially on holiday. There are two types of tourists- Domestic Tourists and Foreign Tourists. Domestic Tourist is a resident of one country travelling only within that country. Foreign Tourist travels the boundaries of many countries, uses different currencies, faces different languages and meets different types of people.

The State of Andhra Pradesh is well known for its rich natural resources, temples and rivers. It is one of the top tourist destinations in India because of its rich cultural heritage, ancient architecture and historical importance.

The tourist arrivals to Andhra Pradesh for the study period are presented in Table-1 & Table-2

Table -1

Domestic Tourists Arrivals to Andhra Pradesh before and after bifurcation of the state

Districts	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Average	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Average
Srikakulam	7109905	7579619	6641928	7110484.00	88,44,746	1,51,12,005	1,66,96,984	13551245
Vizianagaram	675110	2172565	3821340	2223005.00	41,87,574	30,38,625	44,12,267	3879489
Visakhapatnam	4969534	5680648	6733520	5794567.33	62,86,191	1,14,37,630	1,77,14,770	11812864
East Godavari	7428500	86887800	10306789	34874363.00	1,02,79,529	1,74,38,299	1,34,72,124	13729984
West Godavari	7199300	7843200	6628100	7223533.33	52,68,000	82,89,764	74,07,212	6988325
Krishna	16936671	11218972	9984960	12713534.33	74,35,639	1,44,08,854	2,38,51,785	15232093
Guntur	2707702	2114096	2641500	2487766.00	31,20,227	47,45,907	97,23,725	5863286
Prakasam	1131045	1120238	553803	935028.67	7,11,946	7,07,571	11,47,966	8558278
Nellore	878207	974920	1141484	998203.67	11,81,732	21,19,250	38,65,973	2388985
Chittoor	49073098	40963776	36030150	42022341.33	3,64,21,042	3,83,73,955	4,23,50,739	39048579
Kadapa	3179898	2773904	3653439	3202413.67	34,65,027	36,03,518	34,11,649	3493398
Anantapur	371404	309225	195155	291928.00	1,40,858	6,90,900	15,78,265	803341
Kurnool	11904616	20995510	7460379	13453501.67	59,64,463	52,24,776	75,29,895	6239711
Total	11,35,64,990	19,06,34,473	9,57,92,547	336,130,312	9,33,06,974	12,15,91,054	15,31,63,354	265,952,479.33
'p' Value	0.79							

Source: Department of Tourism , Vijayawada

In order to have a better comparison , Andhra Pradesh state before and after bifurcation is taken excluding Telangana.

The above table shows that the domestic tourist arrivals to Andhra Pradesh both before and after bifurcation of the State increased except in the year 2013-14 where there is a decrease in the tourists due to the political disturbances that has taken place in the State during that year. Chittoor district attracts a large number of tourists due to the world famous temple ' Tirupathi' being located in that district. The average figure is highest for Chittoor both before and after bifurcation.

The ' p ' value for domestic tourist arrivals is 0.79 which is insignificant. Hence, Null Hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant difference in the domestic tourist arrivals to Andhra Pradesh before and after the bifurcation of the state.

Table -2

Foreign Tourists Arrivals to Andhra Pradesh before and after bifurcation of the state

Districts	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Average	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Average
Srikakulam	210	183	261	218.00	205	582	1151	646.00
Vizianagaram	849	1283	1058	1063.33	1176	5981	4724	3960.33
Visakhapatnam	29686	59465	58974	49375.00	54242	69483	85607	69777.33
East Godavari	530	203	252	328.33	141	507	1013	553.67
West Godavari	100	18	26	48.00	6	96	465	189.00
Krishna	2083	625	234	980.67	599	4626	11865	5696.67
Guntur	1444	1037	770	1083.67	1053	1135	1921	1369.67
Prakasam	182	131	7	106.67	7	6	1009	340.67
Nellore	408	2575	3452	2145.00	2843	8141	5439	5474.33
Chittoor	3994	9580	2508	5360.67	4429	9231	18226	10628.67
Kadapa	0	1	178	59.67	0	0	610	203.33
Anantapur	295	497	1422	738.00	1478	137847	209397	116240.67
Kurnool	63	23	50	45.33	154	219	337	236.67
Total	30468	75621	69192	95519.00	66,333	2,37,854	3,41,764	215317.00
'p' Value : 0.13								

Source: Department of Tourism , Vijayawada

The above table shows that the Visakhapatnam district stands in top position in attracting the foreign tourists before bifurcation of the State. It is the largest city in Andhra Pradesh and known for many beaches, well built and maintained parks. After the bifurcation, Ananthapur district occupied first place due to the various International Conferences, International Rating Chess Tournament and many other International Events that have taken place during the years 2015 and 2016.

The 'p' value for foreign tourist arrivals is 0.13 which is insignificant. Hence, Null Hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant difference in the foreign tourist arrivals to Andhra Pradesh before and after the bifurcation of the state.

Tourists arrivals to Telangana before and after bifurcation

The Telangana State is rich with historic and cultural heritage. It has a majority of historic temples and monuments which were once part of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The tourist arrivals to Telangana for the study period are presented in Table-3 & Table- 4

Table -3

Domestic Tourists Arrivals to Telangana before and after bifurcation

Districts	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Average	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Average
Mahabubnagar	648727	13363039	8474179	7495315.00	5359378	8509199	9054638	7641071.67
Hyderaba and Ranga Reddy	9075371	9540825	8609619	9075271.67	9431322	10340850	26070949	15281040.33
Medak	3167130	1554625	1450790	2057515.00	1981170	3148823	5440356	3523449.67
Nizamabad	30870	10661	6805	16112.00	12712	8377	7890	9659.67
Adilabad	19013083	13063460	6516051	12864198.00	7289069	16578338	5330724	9732710.33
Karimnagar	1117892	9182719	12732022	7677544.33	10972560	31173034	11786018	17977204.00
Warangal	21775280	6800213	221753370	83442954.33	8364641	29646160	3716676	13909159.00
Khammam	6463308	6388150	11075857	7975771.67	5416110	11338652	5529667	7428143.00
Nalgonda	3463145	5595256	15041483	8033294.67	7724460	7488929	7626858	7613415.67
Total	6,47,54,806	6,54,98,948	28,56,60,176	225,473,812.66	5,65,51,422	11,82,32,362	7,45,63,776	199,638,376.00

'p' Value : 0.55

Source: Department of Tourism, Hyderabad

The above table shows that the domestic tourist arrivals to Telangana after the bifurcation of the State have decreased. Warangal district stands in the top position, being the second largest city in Telangana with famous historic places and temples. In the year 2015-16, Karimnagar district registered a huge growth in the tourists due to the Godavari and Krishna Pushkarams held during that period which made the Karimnagar district in top position after the bifurcation.

The 'p' value for domestic tourist arrivals is 0.55 which is insignificant. Hence, Null Hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant difference in the domestic tourist arrivals to Telangana before and after the bifurcation of the state though, there is a decline in the tourists arrivals.

Table -4

Foreign Tourists Arrivals to Telangana before and after bifurcation

Districts	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Average	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Average
Mahabubnagar	0	10	1138	382.67	2370	1447	845	1554.00
Hyderaba R R	159297	461558	121347	247400.67	81061	147217	156341	128206.33
Medak	435	400	0	278.33	0	0	0	0
Nizamabad	294	271	13	192.67	0	0	0	0
Adilabad	246	190	119	185.00	81	54	11	48.67
Karimnagar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warangal	310	1785	2480	1525.00	2361	1944	1857	2054.00
Khammam	103	2	0	35.00	0	9	0	3
Nalgonda	12	205	15	77.33	0	500	0	166.67
Total	3,03,881	4,64,421	1,25,112	6,19,385.00	85,873	1,51,171	1,59,054	396098.00

'p' Value : 0.18

Source: Department of Tourism, Hyderabad

The above table shows that the foreign tourist arrivals to Telangana is high, during the year 2012-13 as it got the recognition of 'Most Visited Destination' in 2012 and also got an international approval as one of the top 10 cities of the world. Only in the years 2013-14 and 2014-15, there is a slight decline because of Telangana agitations and political disturbances in the State. The rapid development, popular heritage structures, the National and International meetings and conferences increased the foreign tourists to Telangana.

The 'p' value for foreign tourist arrivals is 0.18 which is insignificant. Hence, Null Hypothesis is accepted.

There is no significant difference in the foreign tourist arrivals to Telangana before and after bifurcation of the state though there is a decline in foreign tourist arrivals.

Tourist Arrivals in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana : A Comparison

Andhra Pradesh or popularly known as AP along with newly formed Telangana state are located at southern part of India. These developed states are popular for its agriculture, trade & industry and now Hyderabad is a premium destination for all IT companies of the world. Some of the important visiting places in AP include, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, Srisailem, Rishikonda beach at Vizag. Temples at Annavaram, Bhadrachalam, Mantralaya are pilgrim destinations. Borra caves and Araku valley of Eastern Ghats are nearer to Vizag and they are ecotourism destinations. Krishna and Godavari rivers are the two major rivers in Andhra Pradesh.

Some of the important visiting places in Telangana include, Papikondalu at Khammam, Laknavaram Lake at Warangal, Ananthagiri Hills in Ranga Reddy, Nagarjuna Sagar in Nalgonda. Temples like Basara at Adilabad, Yadagirigutta at Bhongir and Vemulawada at Karimnagar are famous pilgrim destinations.

Table -5
Tourist Arrivals to Andhrapradesh and Telangana

Year	Andhra Pradesh		Telangana	
	Domestic Tourists(DT's)	Foreign Tourist(FT's)	Domestic Tourists (DT's)	Foreign Tourists (FT's)
2011-12	11,35,64,990	39,844	6,47,54,806	1,60,697
2012-13	19,06,34,473	75,621	6,54,98,948	4,64,421
2013-14	9,57,92,547	69,192	28,56,60,176	1,25,112
2014-15	9,33,06,974	66,333	5,65,51,422	85,873
2015-16	12,51,91,054	2,37,854	11,82,32,362	1,51,171
2016-17	15,31,63,354	3,41,764	7,45,63,776	1,59,054
Total	77,16,53,392	8,30,608	66,52,61,490	11,46,328
Mean	128,608,899	1,38,434.7	11,08,76,915	176756.8
CAGR	5.11%	43.07%	2.38%	-0.17%
'p' Value for DT's		0.70		
'p' Value for FT's		0.54		

Source: Department of Tourism, Hyderabad & Vijayawada

The Domestic Tourists Arrivals, by and large, is high in case of Andhra Pradesh compared to Telangana whereas in case of Foreign Tourists, it is Telangana which showed a better picture compared to Andhra Pradesh for the study period. However, the growth rate in Andhra Pradesh is high compared to Telangana State.

The reasons for high Domestic Tourists Arrivals in Andhra Pradesh could be because of the world famous temple 'Tirupathi' in Chittoor District and 'Puttappathi' in Ananthapur, Kailasagiri and beaches in Vizag and

other temples attracting a large number of domestic tourists.

Tirupathi in Andhra Pradesh, though attracts foreign tourists as well, it is Hyderabad in Telangana which is the main attraction for foreign tourists as it is the capital city with a large number of IT Companies and international events taking place in Hyderabad that attracted a large number of foreign tourists compared to Andhra Pradesh.

The Hypothesis that there is no significant difference in Domestic Tourist Arrivals and Foreign Tourist Arrivals to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is tested and 'p' value of 0.70 and 0.54 respectively indicates that the difference is insignificant and hence the null hypothesis is accepted. Though there is a difference in tourist arrivals to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the difference is not statistically significant .

A Noteworthy feature is that after the bifurcation, both the State Governments are banking heavily on tourism sector by developing more tourist destinations with proper infrastructure and facilities to attract large number of Domestic and Foreign Tourists.

Ecotourism initiatives:

Both the States have taken several initiatives for the development of ecotourism which is discussed below

Ecotourism initiatives in Andhra Pradesh (2014-15 to 2016-17)

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has adopted a multipronged approach for promotion of tourism, which includes attracting investments for new tourism projects, developing irrigation projects as tourist spots, identifying and developing new tourism projects, etc. Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation took the following initiatives of identifying potential eco-tourism spots in the state:

- ◀ Setting up of Ecotourism parks in each district.
- ◀ Transforming Forest lands into bio-diversity conservation zones by establishing ecotourism parks.
- ◀ Modernization of Islands (Bhavani Islands), Irrigation Projects (Nagarjuna sagar) and Buddhist Monasteries (Amaravathi) as Ecotourism Destinations.
- ◀ Starting of Water sports at all State Beaches & develop 39 beach resorts as Ecotourism destinations.
- ◀ Organising Safari Rides (Visakhapatnam and Tirupathi Zoological Parks)

Ecotourism initiatives in Telangana (2014-15 to 2016-17)

The wonderful and thriving nature in the state of Telangana has created certain special eco-tourism hotspots, that are worth exploring. The Government of Telangana has been at the forefront of promoting these amazing destinations, where tourism is being promoted actively, whilst ensuring that the fragile eco equilibrium remains undisturbed. Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation also plans to promote Pilgrimage Tourism, Ecotourism and Heritage Tourism in the state. The following are the initiatives:

1. To develop Ecotourism in Telangana "Green Passport", a similar program which is created in Kerala state is under consideration.
2. Steps are initiated to develop Ecotourism in Adilabad (Kawal, Kadem, Jannaram) and Mahbubnagar (Amrabad) forest areas in a big way.
3. The Tourism Ministry has sanctioned Rs 99.86 crores for the 'Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism

Circuit' in Mahabubnagar district of Telangana.

4. TSTDC is organizing adventure clubs at Bhongir Fort for rock climbing activities and trekking, adventure jeep ride into the forest at Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary, Jannaram in Adilabad District as an innovative Practices.
5. Ecotourism Centre has been developed at the Kinnerasani Dam with Deer Park, Environment Education Centre, Nature Park and Nature Trek, creation of camping and boarding facilities at Kawal Tiger Reserve and safari drive in Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

The various noteworthy places of ecotourism to be visited by the tourists in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are discussed below.

Ecotourism area network in Andhra Pradesh

The state of Andhra Pradesh is located in the southern part of India. This state, which is also called the 'Koh-i-Noor of India' has beaches, hills and valleys, caves, wildlife, forests, lakes, pilgrimage sites, etc. The Government has not only beautified this state but have also made Andhra Pradesh as one of the famous tourist destinations of India. Ecotourism have potential in Andhra Pradesh due to various Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks, Waterfalls and Zoological Parks.

Table-6
Ecotourism area network in Andhra Pradesh

S.No	Place	Districts
(a) Waterfalls		
1	Kailasakona falls	Chittoor
2	Penchalakona falls	Nellore
3	Kaigal falls	Chittoor
4	Ethipotala falls	Guntur
5	Talakona falls	Chittoor
6	Ubbalamadugu falla	Chittoor
(b) National parks		
1	Sri Venkateshwara National Park	Chittoor
2	Rajiv Gandhi National Park	Vijayawada
3	Papikonda National Park	East Godavari
(c) Zoological park		
1	Indira Gandhi Zoological Park	Visakhapatnam
(d) Wildlife Sanctuaries		
1	Coringa WLS	Kakinada
2	Gundla Brahmeswaram WLS	Kurnool
3	Kambalakonda WLS	Visakhapatnam
4	Koundinya WLS	Chittoor
5	Kolleru WLS	West Godavari
6	Krishna WLS	Guntur
7	NagarjunaSagar-SrisailamWLS	Kurnool
8	Nellapattu WLS	Nellore
9	Pulicat Lake WLS	Nellore
10	Rollapadu WLS	Kurnool
11	Sri Lankamalleswara WLS	Kadapa
12	Sri Penusila Narasimha WLS	Nellore
13	Sri Venkateswara WLS	Kadapa

Source:www.indianetzone.com

Ecotourism area network in Telangana State

The Telangana State has Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves and National Parks which provide vast scope for attracting visitors and nature lovers. The State also has Zoological Parks and Deer Parks which have a great potential in attracting large number of visitors. Thus, Telangana has immense potential for attracting tourists. The tourism Department in coordination with the Forest Department and takes up the responsibility of developing various Ecotourism centres in the State.

Table-7**Ecotourism area network in Telangana State**

S.No	Place	Districts
(a) Wild Life Sanctuaries		
1	Kawal WLS	Adilabad
2	Pranahita WLS	Adilabad
3	Sivaram WLS	Adilabad&Karimnagar
4	Eturunagaram WLS	Warangal
5	Pakhal WLS	Warangal
6	Kinnerasani WLS	Khammam
7	Manjeera WLS	Medak
8	Pocharam WLS	Medak&Nizambad
9	Amrabad WLS	Mahboobnagar & Nalgonda
(b) National Parks		
1	Kasu Brahmananda Reddy NP	Hyderabad
2	Mrugavani NP	RangaReddy
3	Mahavir Harina Vanasthali NP	RangaReddy
(c) Tiger Reserves		
1	Kawal Tiger Reserve	Adilabad
2	Amrabad Tiger Reserve	Mahboobnagar& Nalgonda
(d) Zoological Park		
1	Nehru Zoological Park	Hyderabad
2	Kakatiya Zoological Park	Warangal
(e) Deer Park		
1	Jawaharlal Nehru Tourist Complex(JLTC)	Shamirper (Ranga Reddy)
2	Pillalamarri Deer Park	Mahboobnagar
3	Kinnerasani Deer Park	Paloncha (Khammam)
4	LMD Deer Park	Karimnagar

Source:www.indianetzone.com

Both the State Governments have come up with several projects for attracting the tourists and the investments made in the projects are presented below.

Details of Ecotourism Projects in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh tourism has come up with a number of interesting projects to boost tourism in the coastal districts most of which are concentrated in the East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, and Krishna and Kurnool areas.

The following table shows the list of ecotourism units in various districts of Andhra Pradesh

Table- 8
Ecotourism Units in AP
(Rs. In Crores)

Districts	Units	Investments
Ananthapur	2	Rs.20
Chittoor	4	Rs. 145
East Godavari	9	Rs. 235
Guntur	3	Rs.30
Kadapa	3	Rs.40
Krishna	4	Rs.1003
Kurnool	8	Rs.95
Nellore	3	Rs.125
Prakasam	1	Rs.20
Srikakulam	1	Rs.10
Vizag	41	Rs.755
Vizianagaram	3	Rs. 60
West Godavari	2	Rs. 75
Total	84	2613

Source: SunRise AP Vision 2029

The number of ecotourism units are more in vizag (41) with an investment of Rs. 755 Crores as Vizag is one of the popular city with beaches, WaterFalls, Hills and with full of Greenary. In addition to this, the Ministry of Tourism under the “ Swadesh Darshan” and “ PRASAD” Scheme, sanctioned the projects to develop Kakinada hope island Konaseema as World Class Coastal and Ecotourism Circuit in Andhra Pradesh; development of Coastal Tourism Circuit in Sri Potti Sriramulu in Nellore and development of Amaravathi town in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh as tourist destinations.

Ecotourism Projects in Telangana State

The list of projects focusing on Eco-Tourism for which Central Financial Assistance has been released by the Ministry of Tourism is presented below.

Table- 9

Ecotourism Projects

(Rs. In. Crores)

S.No	Year	Project	Amount Sanctioned	Status
1.	2015-16	Integrated Development of EcoTourism Circuit in Mahboobnagar District	91.62	Ongoing
2.	2016-17	EcoTourism Development of kinnerasani Wild life sanctuary in Bhadradi Kothagudem District	10.77	Ongoing

Source: Ministry of Tourism

Telangana State has various naturally endowed areas that provides ample scope for promoting Ecotourism. According to TSTDC reports, Ecotourism market is in bottom to generate the revenue. Ecotourism is not as popular as other states in Telangana State. The Ministry of finance under ‘ **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**’ has allocated huge funds to develop Ecotourism Destinations and tourists’s attractions.

Findings

- ◀ Chittoor district attracts a large number of domestic tourists due to the world famous temple ‘ Tirupathi’ being located in that district.
- ◀ Visakhapatnam district stands in top position in attracting the foreign tourists before bifurcation of the State. It is the largest city in Andhra Pradesh and known for many beaches, well built and maintained parks. After the bifurcation, Ananthapur district occupied first place due to the various International Conferences, International Rating Chess Tournament and many other International Events that have taken place during the years 2015 and 2016.
- ◀ Warangal district stands in the top position being the second largest city in the Telangana with famous historic places and temples. In the year 2015 and 2016 Karimnagar district registered a huge growth in the tourists due to the Godavari and Krishna Pushkarams held during that period which made the Karimnagar district in top position after the bifurcation.
- ◀ The foreign tourist arrivals to Telangana is high during the year 2012-13 as it got the recognition of ‘ Most Visited Destination in 2012 and also got an international approval as one of the top 10 cities of the world. Only in the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 there is a slight decrease because of Telangana agitations and political disturbances in the State. The rapid development, popular heritage structures, the National and International meetings and conferences increased the foreign tourists to Telangana.
- ◀ There is no significant difference in domestic tourists arrivals and foreign tourist arrivals to Andhra Pradesh

and Telangana before and after bifurcation. Similarly, there is no significant difference in tourist arrivals to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Suggestions

1. Andhra Pradesh is known for more ecotourism places with greenery in Vizag, East and West Godavari. Many of the foreign tourists are attracted towards these places in Andhra Pradesh. The Government of AP along with APTDC may take initiative for developing more ecotourism projects and encourage Public & Private Partnership (PPP) mode to provide more investments in this sector with better infrastructure facilities and good connectivity of Airports.
2. Telangana has rich forests and wild life sanctuaries providing immense opportunity to be explored in the area of ecotourism wildlife tourism. The government of Telangana and TSRTC may further take steps to develop these places with better facilities to attract the tourists which helps in increasing the employment and revenue from tourism

Conclusion

Tourism is an industry with a lot of opportunities and contributes significantly to the socio-economic growth of the country. Andhra Pradesh is known for its pristine beaches, social places of worship lush green forests, spicy cuisine . The AP Government is also looking for river ways, including tying up with other organisations to attract more tourists to the State. Telangana has many beautiful temples and historic places of workshop located across the state TSTDC have been taken steps to initiate innovation methods of implementing different types of tourism packages/services and experiences to attract both domestic and foreign tourists

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