

Navigating the Regulatory Void: A Critical Appraisal of India's Tourism Law Framework and the Imperative for Legislative Reform

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Abstract

Despite contributing approximately 7.8% to India's GDP and generating direct and indirect employment for over 87.5 crore individuals, the tourism industry operates within a conspicuous regulatory void without any single, unified legislative instrument governing its conduct at the national level. Instead, the sector navigates a fragmented constellation of central and state legislation, administrative guidelines, and non-binding policy instruments that collectively fail to address the sector's unique complexity and dynamism. This article undertakes a critical appraisal of India's existing tourism law framework, examining constitutional dimensions, policy contours, and the perspectives of key stakeholders. The structural deficit arising from the absence of a dedicated national Tourism Act is analysed in depth, with attention to its concrete implications for consumer protection, tourist safety, environmental governance, and India's competitive positioning as an international tourist destination. Drawing on comparative analysis of tourism legislation in the Maldives, France, Kenya, and Australia, alongside doctrinal legal analysis and policy evaluation, the article demonstrates the inadequacy of the current patchwork statutory regime comprising debates around the Tourism (Development and Regulation) Draft Bill, the Contract Act, the Consumer Protection Act, various environmental statutes, and sundry state tourism enactments. A coherent framework architecture for a comprehensive national Tourism Act is proposed, with recommendations addressing regulatory institutionalisation, multi-stakeholder governance, digital tourism regulation, accessible tourism standards, and crisis management provisions.

Keywords: Tourism Law, India, Regulatory Framework, Legal Reform, Tourism Policy, Consumer Protection, Heritage Tourism, Sustainable Tourism, TAAI, MoT

1. Introduction

Tourism is among the most economically consequential yet legally under-regulated sectors of the contemporary global economy. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) recognises it as a powerful driver of economic growth, employment generation, cultural exchange, and sustainable development. India, endowed with a rich historical heritage, extraordinary natural beauty, diverse spiritual traditions, and vibrant cultural plurality, possesses immense and largely unrealised potential as a world-renowned tourist destination. Yet the sector persistently underperforms relative to this potential, a failure attributable in significant measure to the absence of a comprehensive, enforceable, and unified legal framework.

India's structural challenges in infrastructure, regulatory quality, and governance are reflected in its 38th-place ranking in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index (2023) a position that belies the country's natural and cultural endowments. The sector is governed primarily through policy instruments and scheme-based interventions by the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), rather than by statute. In the absence of a national Tourism Act, the tourism industry encompassing tourist transport operators, adventure tourism companies, heritage site managers, and accommodation providers — operates in a condition of sustained regulatory uncertainty.

The central argument of this article is that law and regulation are not peripheral to tourism development but are foundational to it. Legislation defines the rights of tourists and the obligations of service providers, establishes safety standards, protects consumers and the environment, disciplines fraudulent operators, and signals institutional credibility to international markets. The absence of such a framework is not a neutral condition; its consequences are manifest in fatalities in unregulated adventure tourism, the proliferation of fraudulent

operators, the deterioration of heritage sites, the lack of standardised grievance mechanisms, and the unequal competitive position of compliant operators relative to those who evade regulatory requirements.

This article systematically addresses five interrelated themes: (i) the constitutional foundations of tourism regulation in India; (ii) the existing statutory and policy frameworks governing the sector; (iii) the key gaps identified through doctrinal analysis and comparative study; (iv) international best practices in tourism legislation; and (v) a structural framework for a comprehensive national Tourism Act. In doing so, it contributes to the nascent but growing literature on Indian tourism law and fills a significant policy gap at a moment when India is positioning itself as a premier international tourist destination.

1.1 Scope and Methodology

The article employs a doctrinal legal methodology supplemented by comparative and policy analysis. Primary sources examined include the Constitution of India, central and state legislation, Parliamentary debates, Ministry of Tourism policy documents, court judgments, and international treaty texts. Secondary sources encompass academic literature on tourism law, comparative jurisdictional studies, and empirical data from the UNWTO, the World Economic Forum, and NITI Aayog. The orientation is explicitly normative: the article does not merely describe the existing framework but subjects it to critical evaluation and advocates for reform.

2. The Constitutional Framework for Tourism Regulation in India

2.1 Distribution of Legislative Competence

The distribution of legislative powers between the Union and States in India is governed by the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, which allocates subjects across three lists. Tourism does not appear as an independent entry in either the Union List (List I) or the State List (List II), and is only partially addressed in both, a distributional ambiguity that lies at the root of the fragmentation characterising India's tourism regulatory framework.

Under Entry 22 of List I, Parliament has exclusive legislative competence over 'Tourist Offices in a foreign country' a provision of narrow ambit that extends Union authority only to outbound tourism promotion infrastructure and provides no general basis for comprehensive domestic tourism regulation. The Union's broader tourism regulatory interests have historically been pursued through ancillary entries: Entry 13 (participation in international conferences and implementation of resulting decisions), Entry 42 (inter-State trade and commerce), Entry 97 (residuary powers), and concurrent entries covering contracts, consumer protection, and environmental regulation.

State legislative competence over tourism is exercised through several List II entries, including "libraries, museums" (Entry 12), "communications and roads" (Entry 13), "land" (Entry 22), and "industries" (Entry 33), as well as residual state powers. Notably, neither list expressly references hotels and restaurants; states have regulated this segment under general police powers and Entry 8 (intoxicating liquors), which forms the basis for liquor licensing in hotel and hospitality establishments.

Article 248 of the Constitution, read with Entry 97 of List I, vests residuary legislative powers in Parliament over matters not enumerated in Lists II or III. In principle, this provides a constitutional hook for comprehensive Union legislation on tourism. In practice, the Supreme Court has consistently favoured a narrow interpretation of residuary powers to preserve the federal balance, and Parliament has not invoked this head of power for tourism legislation, leaving the field to an ad hoc accumulation of incidental enactments.

2.2 Concurrent List Entries and Their Tourism Implications

Several entries in List III (Concurrent List) bear directly on tourism regulation. Entry 7 (contracts including partnership and agency) and Entry 24 (welfare of labour) provide constitutional foundations for elements of a comprehensive tourism statute. Of particular significance are Entries 17A (forests) and 17B (protection of wild animals and birds) of the Concurrent List, which directly govern eco-tourism and wildlife tourism activities and would necessarily form part of any integrated national tourism law.

The general consumer protection framework established by the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 applies to tourism and hospitality services as a matter of course, but its provisions were not designed with the distinctive characteristics of tourism transactions in mind: the transient and geographically dislocated nature of the tourist-provider relationship, the multi-party structure of package tours, the information asymmetries inherent in complex travel products, and the evidentiary difficulties that tourists face in pursuing claims from distant jurisdictions. A dedicated tourism statute would build upon and sharpen these general consumer protection provisions in a sector-specific manner.

2.3 The Role of Article 51A and Directive Principles

The Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV) and Fundamental Duties under Article 51A of the Constitution, while not directly justiciable, furnish an important constitutional orientation for tourism law reform. Article 48A directs the State to protect and improve the environment a mandate with immediate relevance to sustainable tourism governance. Article 49 mandates the protection of monuments and places of national importance, providing a clear constitutional basis for robust heritage tourism regulation. Article 51A(f) and (g) impose on citizens the duties to value and preserve India's composite cultural heritage and to protect and improve the natural environment, respectively.

Judicial interpretation has progressively expanded the normative force of these non-justiciable provisions by reading them in conjunction with enforceable fundamental rights, particularly the right to life under Article 21. This constitutional attitude provides direct support for legislative measures such as carrying capacity regulation in protected areas, environmental impact assessment requirements for tourism infrastructure in ecologically sensitive zones, and mandatory compliance standards for operators working in or near heritage sites and natural reserves.

3. The Existing Statutory and Policy Landscape

The Indian tourism industry is not regulated under a unique central or state law but rather on an amalgamation of various acts of legislation passed by both the central government and state governments, which tackle specific areas of the tourism scenario. This section takes an overview of key statutory instruments and policy frameworks in operation.

3.1 Central Legislation with Tourism Implications

3.1.1 The Contract Act, 1872 and Tourism Service Agreements

The Indian Contract Act, 1872 provides the foundational legal framework for all tourism-related contractual relationships encompassing tour operator agreements, hotel booking contracts, airline ticketing arrangements, travel insurance instruments, and guide service contracts. However, its general provisions, designed for a nineteenth-century mercantile economy, are ill-suited to the distinctive vulnerabilities of modern tourism consumers: the standardised adhesion character of package tour contracts, the acute information asymmetries between sophisticated operators and individual consumers, the geographic and practical barriers to enforcing contractual rights, and the heightened sensitivity of the tourism consumer to failure of service during travel itself, when remediation is most difficult to obtain.

Tourists remain substantially unprotected against unfair contractual terms routinely embedded in tour operator and accommodation agreements — including sweeping force majeure clauses, unilateral cancellation rights, and broad exclusions of liability for sub-contractors or ground handling agents. In the absence of sector-specific contractual standards, the general law of contract provides inadequate protection to the tourism consumer who, by definition, is a one-time participant in a transaction with a repeat-player operator.

3.1.2 The Consumer Protection Act, 2019

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (CPA) currently constitutes the primary avenue for tourist redress in India. Its broad definition of 'service' encompasses tourism and hospitality services, and the 2019 Act's provisions on e-commerce extend regulatory coverage to online travel platforms and booking aggregators, a significant modernisation over its predecessor. The Act's establishment of a three-tier dispute resolution architecture at District, State, and National levels provides an accessible institutional framework for consumer grievances.

Nonetheless, the CPA's application to tourism consumers is constrained by structural limitations that a dedicated tourism statute would need to address. The exclusion under section 2(7) of persons availing services for 'any commercial purpose' effectively disentitles business travellers and incentive travel participants from CPA protection. The geographic jurisdiction rules create difficulties for tourists who experience service deficiency in a state other than their residence or the place of contract. Commission proceedings, while now subject to statutory time limits, remain protracted in practice. And the absence of collective redress mechanisms leaves unaddressed the multi-complainant scenarios that frequently arise in group travel contexts.

3.1.3 The Hotels and Restaurants (Collection of Statistics) Act, 1948

The Hotels and Restaurants (Collection of Statistics) Act, 1948 provides a limited administrative instrument for data collection from accommodation establishments. Its scope is narrow, its implementation has been uneven across states, and it addresses none of the contemporary regulatory challenges facing the sector quality standards, worker welfare, environmental compliance, or digital platform oversight. It represents precisely the type of outdated, single-purpose legislation that a comprehensive Tourism Act should either absorb and supersede or substantially supplement.

3.1.4 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act)

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act), administered by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), provides the primary legislative protection for India's centrally protected monuments and archaeological sites the heritage assets that attract the greatest volume of both domestic and international visitors. The Act establishes prohibited and regulated zones around protected monuments and restricts commercial activities in their vicinity, providing a baseline of conservation-oriented governance.

The AMASR Act is, however, a heritage conservation statute and not a tourism management instrument. It is silent on visitor carrying capacity, experience quality standards, tourism revenue sharing with proximate communities, and the commercial exploitation of heritage assets in ways that may compromise their long-term integrity. The 2010 amendment, which introduced a 100-metre prohibited zone and 200-metre regulated zone around protected monuments, has generated regulatory uncertainty regarding permissible tourism infrastructure and has proved insufficient to arrest encroachment and unplanned commercialisation that threatens the heritage values these sites embody.

3.1.5 Environmental and Wildlife Legislation

A cluster of central environmental statutes bears directly on tourism activity in ecologically sensitive areas. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 confers broad powers on the Union Government to regulate activities with environmental impacts, including tourism operations. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 governs tourism within national parks and wildlife sanctuaries and provides the basis for eco-sensitive area designations. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subjects tourism infrastructure development in forest areas to prior approval requirements. The Coastal Regulation Zone Notifications issued under the Environment (Protection) Act regulate tourism development in coastal areas, a sector of particular significance given India's extensive coastline.

These statutes provide important environmental safeguards but have not been calibrated specifically to the tourism context. Environmental impact assessments are not uniformly required for tourism projects across all categories. Carrying capacity studies for wildlife tourism destinations remain ad hoc and non-binding. Compliance with coastal regulation zone restrictions in tourism-intensive coastal areas is chronically weak. A comprehensive Tourism Act would need to interface coherently with this body of environmental law, establishing sector-specific obligations that reinforce rather than duplicate the general environmental framework.

3.1.6 The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Tourist Transport

Tourist transport — including coaches, taxis, and hired vehicles used for tourist mobility — is regulated under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which provides for the licensing of contract carriage and tourist vehicles. The practical effectiveness of this framework is, however, significantly undermined by inconsistent enforcement

across states, the absence of uniform safety standards for tourist vehicles, and the complete absence of a regulatory response to the gig-economy ride-hailing platforms that have transformed tourist mobility in urban and peri-urban contexts.

3.2 Ministry of Tourism Policy Instruments

In the absence of direct statutory authority, the Ministry of Tourism has developed an extensive array of voluntary classification systems, conditional approval frameworks, and capacity development programmes as its primary regulatory instruments. The key instruments include: a voluntary hotel star classification system operated by the Hotel and Restaurant Approval and Classification Committee (HRACC), which confers marketing advantages but imposes no legally enforceable standards on the majority of the accommodation stock that does not participate; a recognition scheme for travel agents and tour operators, which conditions access to MoT promotional support but imposes no legal requirement on operators to seek recognition; the INCREDIBLE INDIA Bed and Breakfast Scheme, which provides guidelines for the home-stay segment without legal force; Adventure Tourism Guidelines issued following high-profile fatalities, which establish safety standards that are non-statutory and unenforceable against non-compliant operators; and the National Tourism Policy 2022, a non-binding strategic document that articulates goals without establishing mechanisms or timelines for legislative reform.

System of classification for hotels: The MoT's Hotel and Restaurant Approval and Classification Committee (HRACC) operate a voluntary star rating system for hotels (1-5 star and Heritage). While participating properties enjoy marketing advantages, standards are not legally enforceable when it comes to non-participating properties which make up for the bulk of accommodation stock in India.

The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) provides recognition to the travel agents and tour operators on the grounds while meeting their pre-defined requirements with regard to infrastructure facilities, trained human resources, and financial capacity. All-recognition is the indispensable premise to apply for MoT's promotional support and to be listed by official tourism sites. But, there is no legal requirement to be recognised to run as a tour operator which results in a two-tier market of recognised and unrecognised tour operators with vastly different quality and accountability standards.

INCREDIBLE INDIA Bed & Breakfast Scheme: Scheme is the Guideline for home stay segment which plays an important role in tourism and is increasingly growing in India especially in the field of rural and community based tourism. But it is all on a voluntary basis.

(Respond to instances of serious deaths in adventure tourism activities) After prominent deaths in adventure tourism activities, MoT released Adventure Tourism Guidelines, which aims to set standards for safety in adventure tourism, among the activities listed in the guidelines are trekking, mountaineering, river rafting, paragliding and scuba diving. These guidelines are, however, not statutory and there is no enforcement action for non-compliant operators.

National Tourism Policy 2022: The National Tourism Policy 2022 outlines India's vision for strategic development in the tourism sector, highlighting goals for sustainability, visitor numbers, and job creation. Broad in scope, the Policy is a non-binding document and it does not give an actual timeline or any mechanism on how the legislative reform will be done.

3.3 State Tourism Legislation

Many Indian states have specific laws governing tourism suggesting a demand for introduction of legislation and the fragmentation because of the lack of a central framework. These include:

State	Legislation	Key Provisions	Limitations
Goa	Goa, Daman & Diu Tourist Trade Act, 1982	Licensing of travel agents, hotels, restaurants, tourist vehicles; penalties for	Pre-dates digital economy; limited enforcement; no heritage

State	Legislation	Key Provisions	Limitations
		unlicensed operation	or eco-tourism provisions
Rajasthan	Rajasthan Tourism Trade (Facilitation & Regulation) Act, 2010	Registration of tourism enterprises; tourist grievance redressal; tourism zones	Grievance mechanism weakly institutionalised; heritage-tourism interface unaddressed
Himachal Pradesh	HP Tourism Development & Registration of Tourism Trade Act, 2002	Registration of tourist accommodation; adventure tourism guidelines; tourism development areas	Adventure tourism safety standards need updating; inter-state coordination gaps
Kerala	Kerala Tourism (Conservation & Preservation of Areas) Act, 2005	Declaration of tourism zones; regulation of construction in tourism zones	Focused on spatial regulation; does not address tour operator or service quality standards
Karnataka	Karnataka Tourism Policy 2015-2020 (policy, not statute)	Eco-tourism, heritage tourism, MICE tourism development frameworks	Policy instrument without statutory force; expired; replacement delayed
Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board Act, 2001	Board establishment; tourism development planning	Institutional, not regulatory; adventure tourism fatalities highlight gaps
Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation Act, 1971	State corporation powers; tourism promotion	Developmental focus; minimal regulatory provisions

This comparative survey of state tourism legislation reveals a pattern of partial, sector-specific interventions that fall well short of a holistic regulatory framework for the tourism industry. While a number of states — notably Goa, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala — have enacted dedicated tourism legislation, these statutes address limited aspects of the regulatory landscape and were, in many cases, designed for a pre-digital tourism economy. The absence of a national framework creates acute challenges for inter-state tourism, which constitutes a significant proportion of domestic tourism activity: regulatory inconsistency across state boundaries generates transaction costs for multi-state tour operators, produces variable levels of tourist protection depending on the state in which service is received, and precludes coherent national-level tourism development planning.

4. International Comparative Analysis: Tourism Legislation in Other Jurisdictions

An examination of comprehensive tourism legislation in peer and aspirational comparator jurisdictions illuminates the range of approaches available, the substantive provisions that have proven most effective, and the institutional models that India’s tourism law reform might usefully adopt.

4.1 The Maldives: Tourism Act, 1979 (as amended)

The Maldives Tourism Act, enacted in 1979 and subsequently amended, stands as one of Asia’s earliest dedicated national tourism statutes and establishes a comprehensive framework for the licensing and regulation

of tourist resorts, hotels, guesthouses, diving schools, and tourist vessels. Its provisions include a mandatory licensing system for all tourism operators — subject to regular renewal and potential revocation — enforceable standards for resort accommodation, sanitation, environmental management, and tourist safety, a formal carrying capacity determination and resort island allocation process, mandatory training and certification requirements for tourism employees, and environmental protection obligations calibrated to the fragile reef ecosystems upon which Maldivian tourism depends.

The Maldivian model holds particular resonance for India for two reasons. First, it demonstrates that a developing country can institutionalise high-quality tourism regulation through dedicated legislation even where structural resources are limited — and that such regulation is a driver of competitive success rather than an impediment to it. Second, India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep present regulatory challenges substantially analogous to those addressed by the Maldivian framework, making its provisions a directly relevant reference point for island tourism governance.

4.2 France: Tourism Code (Code du Tourisme)

France's Tourism Code (Code du Tourisme), consolidated in 2004, represents one of the most comprehensive tourism regulatory instruments in the world. It establishes a mandatory Immatriculation registration scheme for travel agents and tour operators administered by ATOUT France; financial guarantee and insurance requirements designed to protect consumers against operator insolvency; professional competence certification conditions; detailed accommodation classification standards; qualification requirements for the guiding profession; safety regulations for mountain and outdoor sports; and a comprehensive framework for casino licensing in tourism resorts.

Of particular relevance to the Indian context is France's implementation of the EU Package Travel Directive, which affords consumers purchasing package tours extensive protections including mandatory pre-contractual information disclosure, restrictions on unilateral price revision, a right to transfer bookings, insolvency protection through compulsory financial guarantees, and tour organiser liability for the performance of all constituent services. An analogous framework would provide transformative protection for Indian consumers of domestic and outbound package tours, a segment of the market that presently operates with minimal statutory consumer safeguards.

4.3 Kenya: Tourism Act, 2011

Kenya's Tourism Act, 2011 is distinguished by its systematic integration of conservation and community interests within the tourism regulatory framework. The Act establishes the Tourism Regulatory Authority (TRA) as an independent statutory body with full licensing, standards-setting, and enforcement powers; creates a dedicated Tourism Fund as a sector-specific financing mechanism; introduces a mandatory revenue-sharing arrangement between tourism operators and local communities in the vicinity of conservation areas; and requires training and certification of tourism service providers, including tour guides.

The Kenyan model of an independent, well-resourced Tourism Regulatory Authority with full statutory powers is highly germane to India's institutional reform agenda. It addresses directly the core limitation of the current MoT-centric framework — namely, the inherent tension between the promotion and regulatory functions of a single ministry — by vesting regulatory authority in a separate body with dedicated mandate, expertise, and institutional capacity.

4.4 Australia: Tourism Industry Council Standards and State Legislation

Australia's approach to tourism regulation combines Commonwealth consumer protection through the Australian Consumer Law with state and territory-level licensing and standards enforcement. The Australian Tourism Industry Council has developed voluntary accreditation standards that have achieved broad industry adoption, complementing the statutory baseline. Most instructive for India is Australia's regulatory response to a series of adventure tourism fatalities: progressively strengthened registration requirements, mandatory risk management plans, and independent safety audits for operators in high-risk activities have been introduced, and in several jurisdictions a current risk management plan constitutes a precondition for obtaining or renewing an operator licence.

The Australian experience demonstrates that a hybrid regulatory architecture — combining a statutory floor of minimum safety and consumer protection standards with incentive-based voluntary accreditation for quality operators — can achieve high levels of compliance without requiring a fully prescriptive regulatory code. This model may offer a workable template for India, where the tourism industry spans an enormous range in scale and sophistication from large corporate operators to individual village-based guides.

4.5 South Africa: Tourism Act, 2014

The South African Tourism Act, 2014 is notable for its statutory embedding of sustainability within the tourism governance framework. The Act provides for the South African Tourism Board to develop a National Tourism Sector Strategy incorporating explicit environmental and social sustainability dimensions; mandates a National Monitor on Sustainable Tourism to track progress against sustainability indicators; and institutionalises sustainability reporting obligations for the sector. For India — a country whose most prized tourism assets include the ecologically sensitive Himalayan ecosystem, extensive biodiversity-rich coastlines, wildlife corridors, and fragile cultural heritage sites — the statutory sustainability infrastructure embedded in South Africa's framework offers a model for ensuring that tourism development does not outpace the environmental and cultural carrying capacity of the destinations it depends upon.

5. Conclusion

This article has demonstrated that the absence of a comprehensive national Tourism Act constitutes a structural lacuna in India's governance architecture with concrete and measurable consequences for tourist safety, consumer protection, environmental sustainability, and the country's competitive position as an international tourist destination. The existing framework — an assemblage of central and state legislation, non-binding policy instruments, and voluntarily observed ministry guidelines — is inadequate in scale, coherence, and legal force relative to the complexity and economic significance of the sector it ostensibly governs.

The comparative evidence is unambiguous: jurisdictions that have enacted comprehensive tourism legislation have achieved superior outcomes in safety regulation, consumer protection, environmental preservation, and destination quality — not in spite of regulation but as a direct consequence of it. India possesses the constitutional competence, institutional knowledge base, and policy infrastructure to enact such legislation. What has been absent is the political will to prioritise legislative reform over the promotion-centred approach that has historically dominated Indian tourism governance.

The framework architecture proposed in this article — centred on an independent National Tourism Regulatory Authority, a universal compulsory licensing scheme, strengthened consumer protection mechanisms, statutory adventure tourism safety requirements, heritage and environmental safeguards, human resource certification standards, and accessible tourism provisions — is grounded in established comparative precedent and is compatible with India's existing constitutional and legislative architecture. None of its elements are novel; all are drawn from models that have been tested and refined in analogous jurisdictions.

India's aspiration to attract 100 million foreign tourists annually and to establish itself as one of the world's foremost tourist destinations cannot be realised through promotional campaigns and infrastructure investment alone. It depends upon the institutional credibility, regulatory quality, and consumer confidence that only a mature legal framework can provide. A comprehensive national Tourism Act is therefore not an obstacle to India's tourism development ambitions but a precondition for their achievement.

Future scholarship should deepen this inquiry through empirical research into the economic and safety consequences of formalising tourism regulation in India; comparative analysis of regulatory enforcement models in Asia-Pacific tourism destinations; stakeholder consultation studies to inform legislative drafting; and constitutional law analysis of the federal dimensions of proposed tourism legislation, particularly with respect to the division of regulatory responsibility between Union and state governments.

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