

CHAPTER 10

TOURISM

Delhi has a rich and unique cultural and architectural heritage, harboring the true pan-India character and is an incredible destination for all. Delhi offers numerous tourist attractions ranging from monuments, museums, shrines, wide variety of shopping destinations & a wide range of culinary experience.

1.1 Some prominent places to visit and events to cherish are as under:

Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya (Prime Ministers' Museum): A modern museum showcasing the contributions of India's Prime Ministers since independence, located at Teen Murti Bhavan. Opened in 2022, it features interactive displays, personal artifacts, and highlights the nation's democratic journey, offering a comprehensive look at each PM's tenure, with options for unique experiences like taking a selfie with the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Kartavya Path: Kartavya Path is a grand ceremonial boulevard in New Delhi that stretches from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, serving as a symbol of India's governance and national pride. Originally designed by British architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker, it was earlier known as Rajpath and was renamed in 2022 to emphasize the idea of duty ("kartavya"). The avenue is famous for hosting the annual Republic Day Parade and has been recently redeveloped with improved pathways, greenery, and public facilities, making it a popular spot for both tourists and locals.

New Parliament House: The new Parliament House of India is a striking triangular, four-storey legislative complex built as part of the Central Vista redevelopment to replace the old, cramped colonial-era building and better serve the needs of a modern, growing democracy. Spanning about 64,500 sq m with three grand entrances—Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar, and Karma Dwar—it houses enlarged Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha chambers with significantly higher seating capacity, modern digital systems, and numerous committee rooms, offices, a Constitution Hall and museum spaces that reflect India's cultural heritage while improving functionality and sustainability with energy-efficient design and green features.

Heritage Tourism

Red Fort: A UNESCO World Heritage Site in Delhi popularly known as Lal Quila, it is the pride of the nation. It is a historic fort, situated in the older part of the city. Lal Quila served as the primary residence for Mughal Emperors who ruled the city for about 200 years. It was until 1856 that the Mughals had resided in Lal Quila. The historical monument also served as the political center of the Mughals. Red Fort was built under the reign of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the year 1639. It was made on the lines of Shah Jahan's palace in his fortified capital Shahjahanabad. It was called Red Fort because of its massive closed walls built in red stone. The palace not only showcases

the architectural brilliance of Shah Jahan but also gives a reasonably good picture of Islamic architecture of those times.

Qutab-Minar: It is a towering approx 73-meter-high minaret and one of India's most iconic monuments, built in the early 13th century by Qutb-ud-din Aibak and completed by his successor Iltutmish. Made of red sandstone and marble, it features intricate carvings and inscriptions in Arabic, representing Indo-Islamic architecture. The minar, along with the surrounding Qutub complex, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and attracts tourists for its historical significance, architectural grandeur, and towering presence in the heart of Delhi.

Agrasen ki Baoli: Agrasen ki Baoli, a 14th-century step well, is a hidden gem showcasing Delhi's rich architectural heritage and ancient water conservation techniques. As a historic monument, it reflects the ingenuity and craftsmanship of medieval India, attracting history buffs and architecture enthusiasts with its intricate design and serene ambiance.

Jantar Mantar: Jantar Mantar, a historic astronomical observatory built in 1724, is a testament to India's rich scientific heritage and the ingenuity of medieval Indian astronomers. It showcases the country's contributions to astronomy and mathematics, attracting visitors with its unique instruments and architectural grandeur.

Purana Quila: Purana Qila, one of India's oldest forts, is a testament to Delhi's rich and turbulent history, showcasing the city's ancient roots and architectural evolution. As a historic monument, it features remnants of the 16th-century fort, including the Qila-i-Kuhna Mosque, attracting history enthusiasts and architecture aficionados with its grandeur and significance.

Mehrauli Archeological Park: Mehrauli Archaeological Park, a treasure trove of Delhi's ancient history, is home to over 100 historic monuments, showcasing the city's rich cultural heritage spanning over 1,000 years. As a protected site, it features notable landmarks like the Qutub Minar complex, Rajon ki Baoli, and the tomb of Balban, attracting history buffs and archaeology enthusiasts with its ancient ruins and serene ambiance.

Heritage Market

- **Chandni Chowk**, a historic market built in 1650, is a vibrant testament to Delhi's rich cultural heritage, showcasing the city's Mughal past and traditional Indian commerce
- **Meena Bazar**, located within the Red Fort, is a charming market that once hosted royal shopping excursions, offering exquisite handicrafts and jewellery, and reflecting the opulence of the Mughal era.

Spiritual Tourism

The Lotus Temple: It also known as the Bahá'í House of Worship, opened in 1986, is a modern spiritual monument shaped like a blooming lotus. It is open to people of all faiths and promotes peace, unity, and silent meditation.

Akshardham Temple: It is one of the largest Hindu temple complexes in the world. Dedicated to Bhagwan Swaminarayan, built by BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha in 2005, it is famous for its beautiful carvings, exhibitions, and spiritual messages that highlight Indian culture, values, and devotion.

Gurudwara Bangla Sahib: It is Associated with Guru Har Krishan Sahib Ji, the eighth Sikh Guru. It is well known for its holy pond (Sarovar) and the community kitchen (Langar), where free meals are served to all, symbolizing equality and selfless service.

Sacred Heart Cathedral: A very important Christian church located near Connaught Place. Built in 1935, it is admired for its peaceful environment and featuring a red-brick façade, Italian-style interiors and serves as a major place of worship for Delhi's Christian community.

The ISKCON Temple: This temple, located in East of Kailash is dedicated to Lord Krishna and Radha. It spreads the teachings of Bhakti Yoga and is famous for devotional singing, spiritual lectures, and meditation sessions.

Kalkaji Mandir: Kalkaji Mandir is one of the oldest temples of Delhi and is dedicated to Goddess Kali. Situated near the rocky Aravalli region, it becomes a major pilgrimage centre during the Navratri festival and represents ancient Shakti worship traditions.

Prachin Hanuman Mandir : Prachin Hanuman Mandir, located at Connaught Place, is believed to be one of the oldest Hanuman temples in the country. The idol of Lord Hanuman here is said to grow naturally in size, and the temple is especially crowded on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib: It is situated in Chandni Chowk, stands at the place where Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was martyred. It is a highly sacred Sikh shrine and symbolizes sacrifice, courage, and the protection of religious freedom.

Lakshmi Narayan Temple: It also known as Birla Temple, This Temple inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi on condition of open for people of all cast and religions, Temple dedicated to lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi, temple made in Orissan style of architecture

Eco - Tourism

Amrit Udyan: The gardens at Rashtrapati Bhawan along with other beautiful gardens in Delhi maintain the ecological balance. In winters Delhi becomes home to a large number of migratory birds which add to eco-tourism angle.

Sunder Nursery: Sunder Nursery, a 90-acre heritage park, is a hidden gem in Delhi, featuring lush gardens, wetlands, and over 300 tree species, adjacent to Humayun's

Tomb. This beautifully restored nursery showcases Delhi's rich horticultural heritage and offers a serene escape from the city's bustle.

Asita Park: Asita Park is a sprawling new biodiversity and riverfront green space and recreational park with millions of native grasses, thousands of trees, wetlands and habitats for nearly 200 species of birds, making it a vibrant public destination for walks, picnics and nature experiences, and even hosting amenities like riverside cafés and event lawns.

Bansera Park: Bansera Park is an eco-themed urban park. It is the city's first bamboo-themed recreational and ecological space, featuring dense bamboo groves with thousands of plants of various varieties, bamboo-built kiosks, seating, pathways, water bodies, musical fountains, children's play areas, and picnic lawns designed to blend nature with leisure and environmental restoration, making it a relaxing green destination for families and visitors.

Garden of Five Senses: The Garden of Five Senses, is a unique sensory garden designed to engage visitors' senses, featuring aromatic plants, textured pathways, and vibrant flowers. This tranquil oasis offers a peaceful retreat from the city's chaos, inviting visitors to explore and connect with nature.

Asola bhati Wildlife Sanctuary: Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Delhi's southern outskirts, is a home for wildlife, including nilgai, and over 200 bird species, offering a unique opportunity to connect with nature. The sanctuary features scenic trails, grasslands, and forests, making it perfect for nature walks, bird watching, and escaping the city's urban bustle.

Okhla Bird Sanctuary: Okhla Bird Sanctuary, located on the Delhi-Noida border, is a vital stopover for migratory birds and a haven for birdwatchers, with over 250 bird species, including painted storks and sarus cranes. This 3.5 km sanctuary features wetlands, grasslands, and water bodies, making it perfect for bird watching, nature photography, and serene walks.

Yamuna Biodiversity Park: Yamuna Biodiversity Park, a 457-acre nature reserve in Delhi, is a thriving ecosystem with diverse flora and fauna, featuring wetlands, grasslands, and forests, supporting over 1,500 plant species and 200 bird species. This ecological heaven offers guided nature walks, bird watching, and opportunities to connect with nature, amidst the city's urban landscape.

Sanjay Van: Sanjay Van, an approx 785 acre forest in Delhi, is an eco-tourism gem, offering scenic trails, diverse flora and fauna, perfect for nature walks, bird watching, and cycling. This tranquil oasis amidst the city's urban landscape invites visitors to connect with nature and experience Delhi's natural beauty.

Raj Ghat: Raj Ghat, a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, is a serene spot in Delhi with lush gardens and scenic pathways, often visited for its historical and cultural significance. While not a traditional eco-tourism site, its tranquil atmosphere and green spaces make it a peaceful spot for relaxation and reflection, aligning with eco-tourism's focus on nature and sustainability.

MICE Tourism

Bharat Mandapam: A state-of-the-art convention and exhibition centre located at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Renowned for hosting landmark global events such as the G20 Summit, it features large halls with a combined capacity of around 7,000, world-class facilities for conferences, exhibitions, and cultural programs, and striking Indian-inspired architecture, including the iconic Shankha-shaped design and rich cultural motifs.

The venue reflects India's modern infrastructure capabilities while celebrating its civilizational heritage. It stands as a powerful symbol of India's emergence as a leading global destination for international dialogue, exhibitions, and mega events.

Vigyan Bhawan: Vigyan Bhawan is located in Central New Delhi, near Rajpath (Kartavya Path). Vigyan Bhawan is one of India's most prestigious and iconic MICE venues, primarily used for high-level meetings, international conferences, government summits, and diplomatic events. It has played a central role in hosting national policy discussions, global conventions, and international delegations, making it a cornerstone of Delhi's MICE tourism landscape.

India Habitat Centre: It is located at Lodhi Road, Central New Delhi, close to government institutions, embassies, and cultural landmark. India Habitat Centre is a premier venue for conferences, seminars, workshops, and intellectual forums, playing a significant role in Delhi's MICE tourism, especially for policy discussions, academic conferences, corporate meetings, and cultural events. It is known for hosting national and international conferences focused on governance, sustainability, arts, and social development.

Yashobhoomi: It is officially known as the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), is a world-class convention and exhibition complex located in Dwarka, New Delhi. Conceived as a modern platform for global meetings, exhibitions, and cultural exchanges, it reflects India's growing stature on the world stage. Equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and expansive exhibition facilities, Yashobhoomi is envisioned as a landmark destination for international conferences and large-scale events. It was inaugurated on 17 September 2023 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

Memorials

Guru Tegh Bahadur Memorial: This complex has been constructed at Singhu Border in an area of 11.87 acres. The 24 meter high central pylon with petals at the base represents the Guru & his strength. The three "C" arches denote his three followers and the monoliths represent the 10 Sikh Gurus with their sayings inscribed on them.

Kalam Memorial: Kalam Memorial located at INA Dilli Haat is a befitting testimony of our undying love for the 'People's President', as he was fondly called.

Azad Hind Gram Tourist Complex at Tikri Kalan: The Complex was developed by Delhi Tourism in memory of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to create quality leisure space and wayside amenities for citizens.

National War Memorial (NWM): The National War memorial is a symbol of victory and national pride of Citizens. The memorial a National monument built to honor and remember soldiers of the Indian military who fought in armed conflicts of independent India.



Dilli Haats:-

Dilli Haats (INA, Janakpuri & Pitampura): Dilli Haat is a socio-cultural complex with a 'bazaar' feel to it. It is an urban version of the traditional weekly market, with a delightful mix of craft, food and culture. A number of festivals are organized in these 3 Haats.

1.2 OTHER PLACES IN DELHI WHICH ATTRACT TOURISTS ARE:

Rashtrapati Bhavan, Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb, Safdurjung Tomb, National Police Memorial, Signature Bridge etc.

1.3 ENTERTAINMENT SPOTS, GARDENS AND BIODIVERSITY PARKS IN DELHI:

Entertainment spots: Museums in Delhi, Movie Theatres, Theaters and Auditoria, Art Galleries, Soft Adventure Sports, various Gardens etc.

Gardens: Central Park Rajiv Chowk, Deer Park, Buddha Jayanti Park, Indraprastha Park, Talkatora Garden, Swarn Jayanti Park and Nehru Park, Lodhi Garden etc.

Biodiversity Parks: Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Kamla Nehru Biodiversity Park, Tilpath Valley Biodiversity Park, Neela Hauz.

1.4 OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **WATER SPORTS ACTIVITIES:**
DTTDC provides water sports activities at 03 lakes in Delhi:
i. Naini Lake (Model Town) (Boating)
ii. Bhalaswa Lake (Boating)
iii. Sanjay Lake (Soft Adventure Park)
- **EVENTS AND FESTIVALS:**

Promotion of cultural tourism is an important component of the tourism landscape. Accordingly, the rich heritage of our country in general and Delhi in particular has been projected from time to time through various festivals & events such as Mango Festival, Children's Theatre Festival, Teej Mahotsav, Dandiya Festival, Diwali Celebration, Bhajan Clubbing, other Cultural Events, Musical Concert etc.

2. Performance of Delhi Tourism

The capital of India is one of the key arrival destinations for both foreign and domestic tourists. The state is among the top tourist destinations in the country. Approx. 32.25 lakh (38.85%) Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in Delhi during 2024 have been recorded as per India Tourism Data Compendium 2025. State/ UT wise number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India in 2024 is given in statement 10.1:

STATEMENT 10.1

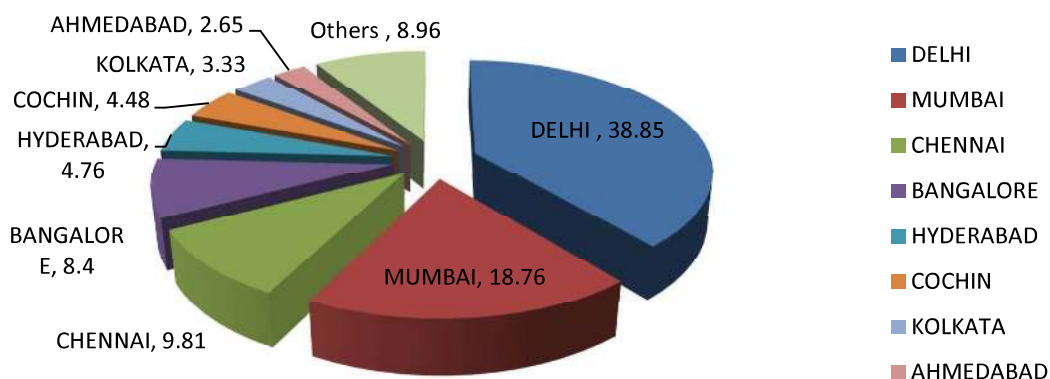
TOP 8 INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS FOR FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS (FTAs) IN INDIA IN 2024*

S. No.	International Airports	FTAs	% Share
1.	Delhi	32,24,675	38.85
2.	Mumbai	15,57,196	18.76
3.	Chennai	8,14,594	9.81
4.	Bangalore	6,96,924	8.40
5.	Hyderabad	3,94,824	4.76
6.	Cochin	3,72,217	4.48
7.	Kolkata	2,76,667	3.33
8.	Ahmadabad	2,19,993	2.65
Total top 8		75,57,090	91.04
Others		7,43,450	8.96
Grand Total		83,00,540	100.00

SOURCE: *INDIA TOURISM DATA COMPENDIUM 2025

CHART

Percentage share of Top 8 Airports for FTAs in India 2024



2.2 State / UT wise number of Foreign Tourist Visits in India in 2024 is given in statement 10.2

STATEMENT 10.2

SHARE OF TOP 10 STATES/UTS OF INDIA IN NUMBERS OF FOREIGN TOURIST VISITS IN 2024

S. No.	States/UTs	Foreign Tourist Visits in 2024	
		Million	% Share
1.	Maharashtra	3.705	17.69
2.	West Bengal	3.124	14.92
3.	Gujarat	2.274	10.86
4.	Uttar Pradesh	2.269	10.83
5.	Rajasthan	2.072	9.90
6.	Delhi	1.999	9.55
7.	Tamil Nadu	1.161	5.55
8.	Kerala	0.738	3.53
9.	Bihar	0.737	3.52
10.	Punjab	0.542	2.59
Total top 10		18.621	88.94
Others		2.321	11.06
Grand Total		20.942	100.00

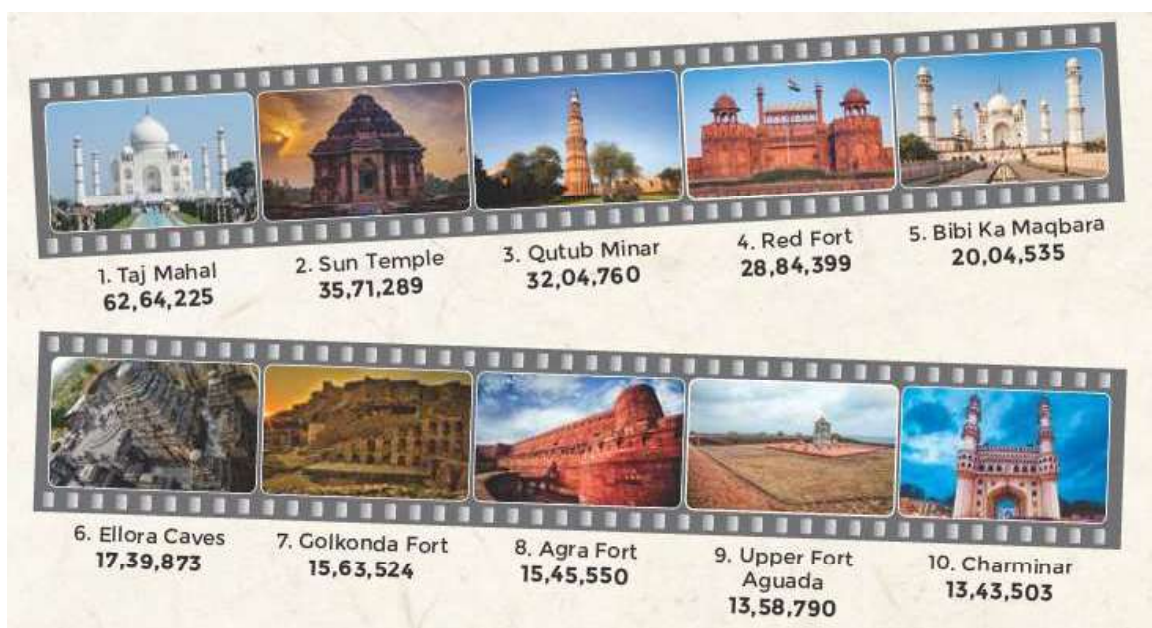
SOURCE:INDIA TOURISM DATA COMPENDIUM 2025

STATEMENT 10.3

TOP 10 CENTRALLY PROTECTED MONUMENTS UNDER ASI HAVING HIGHEST INDIAN VISITOR'S FOOTFALL DURING FY 2024-25

S. No.	Monuments	Domestic Footfall (In lakhs)
1.	Taj Mahal	62.64
2.	Sun Temple, Konark	35.71
3.	QutbMinar	32.04
4.	Red Fort	28.84
5.	Tomb of Rabia (Bibika Maqbara)	20.04
6.	Ellora Caves	17.39
7.	Golkonda Fort	15.63
8.	Agra Fort	15.45
9.	Upper fort Aguada	13.58
10.	Charminar	13.43

SOURCE: ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (ASI)



3. DOMESTIC TOURISTS

The number of domestic tourists visiting the state has also been rising; it was about 39.415 million in 2023 and 46.257 million in 2024.

SOURCE: INDIA TOURISM DATA COMPENDIUM 2025

4. DELHI TOURISM & TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP (DTTDC):

Several important schemes in Tourism Sector are being implemented by the DTTDC, with the objective to develop and promote tourism in Delhi.

TOURISM PROJECTS OF DTTDC:

- Tourist Information Center's
- DilliHaats: (i) INA, (ii) Pitampura, (iii) Janakpuri (Food & Craft Bazaar)
- Garden of Five Senses
- Guru Teg Bahadur Memorial at NH-I
- Nature Bazaar
- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Memorial
- Coffee Home at Baba Kharak Singh Marg
- Azad Hind Gram
- Soft Adventure Park at Sanjay Lake, Mayur Vihar



DILLI HAAT - INA



DILLI HAAT - JANAKPURI



GTB MEMORIAL



DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM MEMORIAL



COFFEE HOME – CONNAUGHT PLACE



AZAD HIND GRAM

Delhi is known for its rich heritage and culture. To promote experiential tourism, various Haunted and Heritage walks are being organized by DTTDC, which are as follows:-

1. Dilli ka Dil aur worship places
2. Ek sham Shaheedon ke Naam
3. Roshan-e-dilli
4. Nawabo Ki Akhiri Nishani
5. Walk of hauz khas
6. Walk of Qutub minar & Mehrauli Archeological park.
7. Food walk (Old delhi)
8. Walk of Shahjanabad (Old Delhi)
9. Dilli ka Dil Dekho
10. Dekho apna CP
11. Haunted Heritage walk (Feroz Shah Kotla Monument)

Delhi Tourism organizes Delhi Tourism Heritage Walk Festival to celebrate Delhi's rich heritage and invited participants to explore the city's historical treasures through a series of guided walks. The aim of the festival is to boast a diverse range of walks, each highlighting a unique aspect of Delhi's vibrant history and culture.

5. TRAVEL DIVISION OF DTTDC:

Travel Division of DTTDC was set up by DTTDC in November 1996 and started regular operations in ticketing. The Travel Division became a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) for the purpose of issuing international air tickets. Further DTTDC is authorized agency for booking of air tickets for domestic and international tours for employees of Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

5.1 Development of Mobile App “Dekho Meri Dilli”:

Delhi Tourism mobile app provides a new paradigm to the tourism sector. It offers tourists, visitors, all stakeholders and people across the globe, in their hands, an easy access to not just tourism destinations in Delhi but also engages them in a constructive manner.

It is an informative all-in-one App for all facets of tourism in Delhi. It enables ticket booking for all monuments of ASI and Delhi Tourism projects. Recently, Baansera Park and Asita Park developed by DDA and Bharat Darshan park, Waste to Wonder Park developed by MCD have been added in this mobile app. This mobile App proves to be a Handy Guide for the National and International Tourists provides authentic information about Delhi. Its integration with Google Maps help tourists to smoothly navigate to the tourist places.

5.2 Delhi Film Policy:

Delhi Tourism has notified and launched Delhi Film Policy (DFP) 2022, on 13.05.2022 to brand the national and international profile of Delhi through films. DFP 2022 includes a unique feature i.e. e-Film Clearance, a completely online single window clearance mechanism for film shooting facilitation in Delhi to accord the approvals online from 20+ stakeholders departments in a seamless, transparent and stipulated time manner, in line with the vision and objective of ease of doing business in Delhi.

Since its inception **278 applications** for film shooting have been received and **50** Film projects have been facilitated through e-film clearance portal. A repository of 550+ Filmic locations is also available on the portal, which are being enhanced further as per requests of Production House for more film shooting locations. This policy is being promoted at National and International platforms with the aim of making Delhi a preferred filmic destination and ease of doing film business in Delhi.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

- The capital of India is one of the key arrival destinations for both foreign and domestic tourists. The state is among the top tourist destinations in the country. Approx. 32.25 lakh (38.85%) Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in Delhi during 2024 have been recorded as per India Tourism Data Compendium 2025.
- Delhi secured 6th rank in Total Foreign Tourist Visits in 2024 with a share of 1.999 million FTVs (9.55 %) out of total 18.621 million FTVs among Top 10 States/UTs of India. (India Tourism Data Compendium 2025).