PREFACE

The interest among the academicians to deal with the subject of tourism and recreation as an independent branch is relatively a recent one. The increasing significance of tourism as a source of income, employment and amenities for the population of many areas and as a major factor in the ‘balance of payments’ for many countries, particularly the developing ones, has drawn the attention of the governments as well as regional and local authorities. Tourism has attained importance in many countries as it is a big source of foreign exchange earning and has opened wide opportunities for newer employment.

Madhya Pradesh has tremendous potential for the development of tourism, which perhaps no other state has because of its rich, exotic variegated scenic landscapes, cultural heritage, traditional art, architectural monuments, colorful life, festivals, traditional and varied customs as well as many other remarkable aspects of culture and civilization. Yet the fact remains that Madhya Pradesh inspite of being the heartland of India has not been able to exploit the potential of tourism. This study will quite useful for the academicians, policy makers, tourism planners and above all environmentalists, as the study brings the current trends in this area and sets a road map for the policy makers and managers for implementing the tourism in sustainable way in the state so as to mitigate the future potential threats of tourism. The thesis has been divided into eight chapters.

Chapter 1 deals with the introduction to the concept of tourism and related definitions and explanations. The data collected from different sources have been captured to describe the tourism scenario in the world and India in particular. The overview of different impacts of tourism has been explained.
Chapter 2 deals with the tourism in the context of Madhya Pradesh exclusively. The tourism arrivals and the benefits of tourism give the insight of tourism in the ‘Tiger state’. The opportunity in the tourism sector and the overview of the policies framed for Madhya Pradesh to promote the tourism in the state have been discussed.

Chapter 3 is important from the research point of view in that as it provides a brief review of literature related to the impacts of tourism on the environment. The review of literature has been carried out in three broad heads with its limitations. The sociological and the economic aspects of the impacts due to tourism have also been discussed. The literature pertaining to methodological part of the study, the importance of perception surveys as a tool for measuring the impacts on the local communities and other related issues have been elaborated in the chapter.

Chapter 4 deals with ‘Aims and Objectives of the study’, incorporating the objectives of the research project undertaken and investigation issues along with the significance and scope of the study.

Chapter 5 describes the ‘Methodology’ section elaborating tools and techniques adopted for conducting the study in order to achieve the required objectives. The techniques adopted for the research work have been explained in simple and scientific language. The chapter also deals with the limitations of the study.

Chapter 6 on ‘Study area” presents the glimpse of the destination sites selected for the study. The geographical characteristics, location, infrastructure and tourism assets are described in this chapter.

Chapter 7 is an important section of the study dealing with the “Results and Discussion”. The results obtained from the field have been
discussed in detail with the help of charts and table. The results so discussed give the current assessment of the destination areas and impacts of tourism at the sites. The results analyse the overall details of the issues of the tourism in the area.

Chapter 8 includes the ‘Conclusions and Recommendations’ and highlights the significant outcomes of the research work.

Chapter 9 incorporates the detailed bibliography referred for the study.

The report in hand will have direct relevance to the policy makers and environmental researchers in tourism field in the different institutions, tourism and transport sectors. The report provides first hand data for the formulation of policies for the local communities in the State, and gives the current assessment of the environmental domain for the study area. The report will contribute to the existing knowledge and literature in the area of tourism and environmental related issues on the subject, specially for the study area.