

# INDIAN OUTBOUND TRAVEL HAS A VERY POSITIVE OUTLOOK: INTERGLOBE AIR TRANSPORT'S CEO



Mr. Siddhanta Sharma  
President & CEO, InterGlobe Air Transport (IGAT)

***Having already emerged as a major outbound travel market, India is expected to grow further over the next few years, according to MR SIDDHANTA SHARMA, President & CEO, InterGlobe Air Transport (IGAT).***

By Prem Kumar

**To start with, what is your assessment of the current outbound travel from India?**

India has emerged as a major outbound market over the past decade both in terms of volume as well as overall spends in the outbound travel sector. This already large market is expected to grow further over the next few years. International Tourism Boards are leveraging this opportunity and their increased interest in the Indian market is implied through their marketing and promotional activities. Every day more tourism boards are setting up their offices and increasing their presence in India and all these efforts, suggest a very positive outlook for the sector.

**What kinds of trends have you noticed in the Indian outbound travel in recent years in terms of tastes, choices and preferences?**

Historically, Indian travellers were perceived to be cautious, non-experimental and low spenders. However, the profile of

the Indian traveller has significantly changed over the last decade. The emerging middle class, financial empowerment of women and smart technologies has energized the sectoral growth further. As the income levels and size of population corresponding to those income levels rose, people started spending on tourism and for leisure activities more often. Another reason was to brag about the fact that one has been to an overseas location. 'I have got a visa stamp in my passport' was a statement to make! The new age Indian travellers today are spending more and are exploring new destinations. Adventure, sight-seeing, exploring the unexplored and relaxation are the key drivers of outbound travel today.

**How do you see the Indian outbound travel evolving in the coming years? What factors would lead to these prospective changes?**

Indian millennials are the new fast-growing segment which has the propensity to spend. They are more confident and adventurous than previous generations when it comes to travel. Millennials prefer independent travel over group tours and are less concerned about issues like language or cultural barriers.

Higher disposal incomes and easy