

**BARISTHA NAGARIKA TIRTHA YATRA YOJANA**  
**REVISED OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES, 2018**

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**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM**

No. 6420 /TSM, Bhubaneswar  
T.TSP-III BNTYY-49/2018

Dt. 10.07.18

**NOTIFICATION**  
**BARISTHA NAGARIKA TIRTHA YATRA YOJANA REVISED**  
**OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES, 2018.**

**1. Short title & commencement**

- (i) These guidelines may be called as “**Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana Revised Operational Guidelines, 2018**”.
- (ii) This shall be come into force on the date of their publication in Odisha Gazette.

**2. Definitions**

In these guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires,

- (a) “State” means Govt. of Odisha.
- (b) “Department” or “DoT” means Tourism Department.
- (c) “OTDC” means Odisha Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.
- (d) “RDC” means Revenue Divisional Commissioner (of Southern, Central and Northern Divisions).
- (e) “Collector” means Collectors & Dist. Magistrate of concerned districts.
- (f) “Tourist Officer” means District Tourist Officer of concerned districts.
- (g) “IRCTC” means Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd.
- (h) “SLC” means Sate Level Committee headed by Hon’ble Minister Tourism.
- (i) “DLC” means Dist Level Committee headed by Dist. Collector.
- (j) “Monitoring Cell” means cell constituted at Tourism Department.
- (k) “Pilgrim” means a Senior citizen of the State above the age of 60 years and below 75 years, who is selected for the tour under the scheme.
- (l) “Attendant” means the person accompanying with the pilgrims above 70 years of age.
- (m) “Tour Itinerary” means the tour packages decided by IRCTC/Tourism Dept. from time to time.
- (n) “Starting Point” means the Railway station from which the Train will start.
- (o) “Boarding Points” means en-route Railway stations from which the Pilgrims can board the train.

**3. Scheme Details**

Pilgrimage or *Tirtha Yatra* holds a special significance in Indian culture as well as in other cultures of the world. Pilgrimage is considered as a spiritual and divine experience and also a deed of reward. Tradition of Tirtha Yatra or pilgrimage has always played an important role in holding the diversities of Indian culture together and intact since ancient times.

Keeping this in view, the State Tourism Department offers a great opportunity to the poor and deprived senior Citizens of the State for realization of their lifelong dream of having one Tirtha Darshan (Pilgrimage) and fulfils their spiritual aspirations, with the support of the State. This scheme will be offered to people of all regions/faith.

The scheme is envisaged to help senior citizens over 60-75 years of age to undertake pilgrimage with Government assistance.

Accordingly, State Govt. has launched the scheme, namely, “**Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana**” vide Tourism Dept. Notification No. 2583/TSM, dt. 01/02/2016, in collaboration with IRCTC wherein the pilgrims will be taken on a visit to different pilgrimage centers in the country from particular boarding points in the state as per the schedule approved for the journeys. Further, the Department had issued Operational Guideline on BNTYY vide Tourism Dept. Notification No.8472/TSM Dt. 30.8.2016.

For smooth operation of the scheme, Govt. have been pleased to formulate the following revised guidelines in supersession of the guideline issued earlier vide Notification No.8472/TSM Dt. 30.8.2016.

Each train shall accommodate a maximum number of 1000 passengers. Minimum of 30 nos. of seats shall be reserved for Escort Officers & Medical Officers accompanying the pilgrims. Selection of remaining 970 seats will be made by the District Collectors basing on the District-wise quota fixed for the Districts. District-wise quota of 970 pilgrims to be selected for the each journey is to be finalized by Tourism Department.

#### **4. Eligibility Criteria**

- The applicant must be over 60 years of age & within 75 years of age (Except in cases of joint application of a married couple where one of the spouses can be less than 60 years of age). For computation of age, the last date of submission of application will be taken into account.
- The applicant has to be a domicile of Odisha.
- The applicant should have the requisite fitness to undertake the journey and should not be suffering from any communicable disease.
- Since the scheme is meant for poor and deprived sections of the society, the applicant should mandatorily possess any of the following:
  - Antyodaya/ Annapurna card,
  - Ration Card under NFSA
  - Widow Pension/ Old Age Pension
  - MGNREGS Job Card
  - The auto inclusion and the deprivation criteria used by Panchayati raj dept which has replaced the criteria for identification of BPL category people and weaker sections for different development schemes can be used to filter the eligible applicants for this scheme.
  - Any other similar documents issued by the State Govt. reflecting their weak economic status or deprivation.
- Under the scheme, an attendant can also accompany the applicants above 70 years of age. The application of the attendant should be a joint application with the prospective 'Pilgrim'. The attendant has to pay 50% of the travel cost in shape of Bank Draft drawn on scheduled banks in favour of the Director, Tourism payable at Bhubaneswar along with the application. Attendant should be over 18 years of age.
- A married couple can apply 'jointly' for the pilgrimage trip. Their joint application will be treated as one application, but, the facilities provided will be individual. *The joint application will be held eligible even if one of the spouses is less than 60 years of age.*
- Under the scheme, the pilgrim can avail the benefit of journey only once in life time.
- Applicant providing false information will be debarred of benefit under the scheme.

## 5. Application Procedure

- Applications shall be invited by the Tourism Department by giving wide publication both in electronic and print media.
- District Collectors shall publish copies of the advertisement in different district offices, blocks, Tehsils and Gram Panchayat Offices for wide publicity.
- The application forms shall be made available at District Collectorate/ Block, Tahasil, Gram Panchayat Office, District Tourist Offices and also will be available online at [www.odishatourism.gov.in](http://www.odishatourism.gov.in)
- A senior citizen desirous to avail the benefit of 'Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana' should fill up application in the prescribed pro-forma (Form - Odia or English) (**Annexure-I & II**) and submit the same at O/O the Dist. Collector/ Tourist Officer of his/her respective district or any other authority designated by the Collector for this purpose, before the prescribed time-limit. The application shall be received either manually or by post by the said offices. The applications received by different offices should be sent to District Tourist Office for allotment of district wise code and registration number for selection by the district level committee.
- Documents relating to proof of identity, address and undertaking regarding medical fitness, documents in support of eligibility should be affixed to application. Submission of documentary proof in support of identity, age, address shall be as per norms of Govt. of India/ Govt. of Odisha.
- The Applicants should duly fill the application form furnishing their emergency contact details (Name & Address, Telephone, Mobile, Email id, etc. of his relative for contact in case of emergency), Blood Group, 2 nos. of Photographs (Passport size) along with the application.
- Joint applications for couples and with attendant should be filled according to the proforma.
- Application complete in all respect shall be forwarded/ submitted to the concerned Collectorate/ Dist. Tourist Officer or any other authority designated by the Collector within the prescribed time limit fixed by Tourism Dept. from time to time. The incomplete application or application received after specified dead line and without required information/ documents/ Bank draft, if any, shall be summarily rejected.

## 6. Selection Procedure

- A Special Cell has to be opened in the office of the Collector for selection of pilgrims under BNTYY and over all coordination of the scheme.
- Every application should be given a District-wise code prescribed by the Tourism Department & registration number at the time of receipt at District Tourist Office level. In cases joint applications of married couple or of a senior citizen above 70 years along with an attendant, the application will be given **one registration number**.
- All the duly filled applications received by the different offices of the District Administration shall be scrutinized by the 'Cell' formed for this purpose. The scanned copies (soft copies) of the valid/ eligible applications with attachments shall be forwarded to the office of the Collectors through District Tourist Officer.
- A **BNTYY District Level Selection Committee** shall be formed in the district under the Chairmanship of District Collector, consisting of following members
  - Additional District Magistrate
  - PD DRDA
  - SUB COLLECTOR
  - CDMO
  - DIPRO
  - Dist Tourist officer will be the member convener of this committee.

- If there are more number of Applicants than the district wise quota allotted for each district, The Dist. Level Selection Committee, will make the selection of the pilgrims through a transparent lottery system such as drawl of lots or electronically through Random Number Generator System or any transparent method as may be decided by Selection Committee as per the District-wise Quota fixed by the Dept of Tourism.
- The Dist. Level Selection Committee should also select 20% extra applicants as wait listed to accommodate for shortfall if any. **The district wise quota of the pilgrims fixed for each district should be, as far as possible, equitably distributed by the district Collector among the Blocks/ULBs of the district basing on the population of the blocks and municipal areas. The Collector can adjust the quota within the blocks and ULBs, taking into account local factors, if any.**
- The selected list of pilgrims of the District should be widely published in the District Headquarters, Tourist Office and Block Offices for information of the general public.
- In case of shortfall even after adjustment of waitlisted candidates, the balance pilgrims are to be selected from the district of “Starting Point” i.e originating station or by any another method as directed by the Department of Tourism.
- A soft copy of list of such selected applicants & waitlisted applicants in the prescribed format (in MS excel format as per **Annexure-IV**), separately, shall also be sent to the DoT well in advance before commencement of the train journey.
- The District Collectors shall be provided with contingency fund to meet the expenditure on scanning of the document, travel expenses, stationeries, office assistance, any other related expenses, etc.
- An Applicant, who has been selected for the journey and later decided not to perform the journey due to some unavoidable circumstances, should have to intimate the Concerned Dist. Collector/ Tourist Officer/ Tourism Dept. at least 7 days before the date of commencement of the journey. In such case, the Applicant can be considered to avail the benefit in the next journey. In case where the Applicant has not intimated the fact for cancellation of his journey before 7 days to the Dist. Collector/ Tourist Officer/ Tourism Dept., he will be debarred for subsequent journey and journey cost, if any deposited for the purpose shall be forfeited.

## 7. Facilities for pilgrims

- The district administration will make arrangements for transportation of the selected pilgrims including their attendants to district HQ and further to the “Starting Point” i.e originating railway station or directly from home to the starting point and also on return journey from the “Starting Point “ back to their homes.
- Arrangements for stay and food for the pilgrims coming from various districts on the day previous to the actual departure will be done by the district administration of the “Starting Point” i.e originating station.
- Vegetarian Meals, Breakfast, Tea & Snacks with Drinking Water throughout the journey, Road transport, Accommodation in nearby destinations, Tour escorts, tour guide, travel insurance and medical facilities with professional physicians shall be provided by IRCTC.
- The tentative food menu to be provided at the starting point by Tourism Department as well as during journey by IRCTC are as follows:
- Break Fast-8-9 AM- Upama & Dalma/ Puri & Veg. Mix. Curry/Idle, Sambar and Tea & Water, (b) Lunch- 12 Noon-2 PM- Veg.-Rice/Roti, Dal, one Curry, one

Veg. Fry, Khata, Water, (c) Tea & Biscuits- 4-5 PM, (d) Dinner- 7-9 PM- Veg.-Rice/ Roti, Dal, Veg. Curry & Water.

- The travel kit shall be provided by IRCTC to the pilgrims within a cost as per the MOU signed between the state Govt. & IRCTC for each year. The kit shall contain tooth brush, tooth paste, coconut oil, shampoo, bathing & washing soap, bed-sheet, blanket, cap, towel, hand napkin, comb, mirror, identity card & a bag. The bag shall be properly branded with Odisha Tourism logo.
- If pilgrims desire to avail any facility other than that prescribed by the Government during journey, then they will have to make payment for the same. Tourism Dept. / IRCTC cannot take responsibility of the extra services desired by the pilgrims.

## **8. Role of Dept of Tourism**

- The Dept of Tourism. will be responsible for overall supervision and successful implementation of the scheme.
- Tour destinations will be decided by Tourism Department in consultation with IRCTC and the final program will be provided to IRCTC in advance for planning of tour itinerary and train schedule.
- The tour will be operated by chartered trains under Full Tariff Rate (FTR) basis and shall originate from the points mutually agreed by Tourism Department and IRCTC and other major railway stations as desired by Tourism Department subject to operational feasibility. Apart from the originating place, 2 en-route stations will be considered for boarding and de-boarding of the passengers, if required will be specified by the Department.
- Number of items, designs, specifications of the travel kit will be decided by Tourism Department and the cost will be borne by Tourism Department. The same will be distributed to Pilgrims on boarding by IRCTC.
- MoU will signed between the State Government and IRCTC as per mutually agreed provisions. The Director, Tourism will be authorised to sign the MoU on behalf of State Government.
- Massive campaign for awareness of the senior citizens to avail the benefit of the scheme should be taken up by the department. The advertisements for awareness of the scheme, for inviting applications to avail benefit under the scheme, etc. shall be made in major Odia/English dailies & important local dailies of the concerned districts.
- The State Government or the dept of tourism will not be responsible for any Mishap/Accident during the journey.

## **9. Role of District Administration**

- The District administration shall make efforts to sensitize the senior citizens about this scheme by giving wide publicity at different level, more particularly at Gram Panchayat, Block/ Tahasil and District level.  
They will also coordinate with the Tourism Department for handling of the tour.
- The application forms shall be made available at District Collectorate, Gram Panchayat, Block & Tahasil Offices, District Tourist Offices and all Dist. Level Govt. offices.
- The district administration shall form a 'BNTYY cell' in their respective offices and provide man power to the Tourist Officers to manage them.
- The district administration shall take appropriate steps for receipt of applications and allotment of District-wise code, prescribed by the Tourism Department separately & Registration number.
- The district administration shall facilitate the medical examination and certification of the applicants.

- The concerned Dist. Administration is responsible the transportation of the pilgrims of their respective districts from their home point to the dist HQ and further to the “Starting Point “ and on the return journey from the station back to their homes.
- Dist. Collectors, if required, can outsource the job of coordinating the entire arrangement, including transportation, accommodation, food, publicity.
- The Dist. Collector of the “Starting Point “ i.e originating station shall be responsible for the entire arrangement including accommodation, food, publicity and necessary arrangements at the railway station a day before the departure and on the day of departure and also on return on completion of pilgrimage.

## **10. Role of Tourist Officers**

- The Tourist Officer will be the nodal officer for BNTYY for the concerned district/ districts.
- The Tourist Officer shall manage the 'BNTYY cell' in their respective districts.
- The applications received by the respective Dist. Tourist Officers shall be scrutinized by them in the ‘cell’ formed for this purpose under the overall supervision of the Collector.
- The Dist Tourist Officer shall prepare detail list of valid/eligible applicants for each group of applicants, separately, in the format in MS Excel sheet prescribed by the Tourism Department (**Annexure-IV**) and also make scanned copies of the valid/ eligible applications along with all enclosures and send it to the District Collector for final selection.
- On receipt of the final list of selected and wait-listed applicants in their districts, the concerned Tourist Officers shall coordinate the work for intimating the selected, wait-listed and not-selected Pilgrims.
- Tourist Officer shall identify the drop outs, prepare final list of Pilgrims actually performing journey (out of selected & wait-listed) and send combined list of such pilgrims to DoT, well in advance for preparation of train tickets.
- The Tourist Officer shall forward the bank drafts of selected pilgrims to Tourism Department for deposit in the Govt. exchequer. The bank drafts received from the pilgrims not-selected for the journey shall be returned by the Tourist Officer to the concerned pilgrims.
- The Tourist officer shall make a database of the selected pilgrims who have availed the benefits of the journey earlier to avoid repeated journey by the same pilgrim. The list should be sent to the District Collector and Tourism Department for record.

## **11. Role of IRCTC**

- Under the Scheme “Complete Tour Package” shall be taken care of by the IRCTC as per agreed terms and conditions under Full Tariff Rate (FTR) basis.
- The detailed cost estimate and tour itinerary will be provided by IRCTC.
- The tour packages shall include train journey in sleeper class in chartered train, night accommodation on multi sharing basis, veg. meals (morning tea, breakfast, lunch, evening tea with snacks and dinner) on set standard menu as decided by Tourism Department.
- The IRCTC shall provide separate Identity Cards with name, address and contact no., to all Pilgrims with a flag for their identity in case of missing in the crowd. Road transport and sightseeing by Non-A/C buses, services of tour managers, Accommodation in nearby destinations, Tour escorts, tour guide, public address system, travel insurance and medical facilities with professional physicians shall be provided by IRCTC. Daily attendance of the pilgrims should also be taken at each place to avoid missing.



- The tentative food menu to be provided at the starting point by Tourism Department as well as during journey by IRCTC are as follows:  
(a) Break Fast-8-9 AM- Upama & Dalma/Puri & Veg. Mix. Curry/Idlee, Sambar and Tea & Water, (b) Lunch- 12 Noon-2 PM- Veg.-Rice/Roti, Dal, one Curry, one Veg. Fry, Khata, Water, (c) Tea & Biscuits- 4-5 PM, (d) Dinner- 7-9 PM- Veg.-Rice/Roti, Dal, Veg. Curry & Water.
- The tour package will not include ticket price for light and sound show and other activities, digital video camera, boating, ropeways charges, etc. at sightseeing places which shall be paid by the pilgrims, if they wish to avail the facilities.
- The travel kit shall be provided by IRCTC to the pilgrims on board as per the cost approved by Govt. The kit shall contain tooth brush, tooth paste, coconut oil, shampoo, bathing & washing soap, bed-sheet, blanket, cap, towel, hand napkin, comb, mirror, identity card & a bag. The bag shall be properly branded with Odisha Tourism logo.
- Prime importance shall be given for safety and security of the pilgrims and proper sanitation of coaches by IRCTC for which IRCTC will increase the number of escorts from their side and place uniformed security personnel in hotel and other stay facilities to ensure that there is no unscheduled movements of the pilgrims and come up with tracking solutions in which ever feasible way it can be done.

## **12. Responsibility of Pilgrims Selected for Yatra**

- As far as possible the pilgrims should avoid wearing jewellery
- Pilgrim should give an undertaking that they have the requisite fitness to undertake the journey and they are not suffering from any communicable disease.
- The pilgrim has to give an undertaking that he/she is taking the journey on his own will and at his/her own risk and that the state govt will not be responsible for any unforeseen untoward incident, if any, during the entire duration of the pilgrimage up till the time they reach their homes.
- The selected pilgrims should not deviate from the scheduled program journey and site visits under any circumstances.
- The pilgrims should listen to the instructions of the IRCTC officials during the entire duration of the journey.
- The pilgrims should maintain good behaviour among themselves and with IRCTC officials.

## **13. State Level Committee for BNTYY**

The State Level Committee is re-constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister Tourism with the following members to monitor and supervise the scheme.

- DC-cum-ACS
- Secretary, Tourism
- Secretary Culture Department
- Secretary, Home Department
- Secretary, Health Department
- Secretary, Panchayat Raj Department
- DG, Police
- RDCs
- Director, Culture Department
- Director, Sports Department
- M.D, OTDC
- Director, Tourism – Member Convenor



#### 14. District Level Coordination Committee for BNTYY

The District Level Committee is to be constituted under the Chairmanship of Collector with following members to scrutinize and recommend the names of pilgrims and address other issues of pilgrims of the districts.

- Collector – Chairman
- ADM - Vice-Chairman
- SP of the District
- PD DRDA
- Sub Collectors
- CDMO
- DWO
- DSWO
- District Culture Officer
- District Sports Officer
- District Tourist Officer – Member Convener

#### 15. Monitoring & Management Cells

A Monitoring Cell named “Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana Monitoring Cell” which has been constituted at Tourism Dept. level for monitoring the scheme with the following members; vide Tourism Department Notification No.2609/TSM, dt.01.02.2016 is to continue as such

- Joint Director/ Deputy Director in charge of the section
- Tourist Officer (Hqrs.),
- Asst. Tourist Officer (Hqrs.)
- Two Data Entry Operators

#### ORDER

Ordered that the Notification be published in the Odisha Gazette and copies thereof forwarded to the A.G., Odisha/ all Departments of Govt./all Heads of Departments/All RDCs/all Collectors/all Tourist Officers for information.

By order of Governor



Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt.

Memo No.- /TSM 6421 Dt. 10.07.16

Copy forwarded to Gazette Cell, Commerce & Transport (Commerce) Department, Odisha Secretariat, Bhubaneswar for information & necessary action.

They are requested to publish the Notification in next issue of extraordinary Odisha Gazette and circulate the same to all concerned and 300 copies may be furnished to this Department for reference.

  
Joint Director & Dy. Secy.