




STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR REOPENING OF

“SHREE JAGANNATHA TEMPLE”, PURI

No. 9083 Date. 22/12/2020

Shree Jagannatha Temple has been closed since 20.03.2020 for the entry of general public, in view of threat of spread of COVID-19. This had been done subsequent to orders of Government from time to time. After six months of closure, in the month of October when the spread of virus lessened, consultations (from 09-10-2020 to 16-10-2020) were held with various Nijogs and different stake holders by the Temple Administration to gather their views on reopening of the temple. In the consultations there was a general consensus that Shree Jagannatha Temple may be opened only after the month of Kartik.

Subsequently, this matter was again discussed in the Shree Jagannatha Temple Management Committee (SJTMC) meeting held on 17.11.2020. In the meeting, it was decided that Chief Administrator, SJTA will have consultations with officials and various senior sevaks and thereafter intimate to the Government, views that are arrived at. Accordingly meeting with various officials and consultation with senior sevaks through Chhatisha Nijogs was held on 12.12.2020. On the basis of the discussions, a proposal was moved to the Government on 14.12.2020, to open Shree Jagannatha Temple from 23rd December, 2020 onwards (for darshan by devotees). The Government in response advised SJTA to take appropriate decision at its level in consultation with the Collector, Puri. Thus, a meeting was held on 22.12.2020 between SJTA & the District


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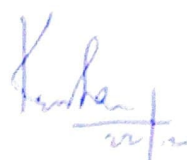
Administration and all other concerned stake holders to discuss the matter. After detailed discussion it was decided to open the Temple w.e.f 23.12.2020 under strict guidelines as detailed below:

I. Schedule for reopening of Shree Jagannatha Temple:

1. The temple will be opened gradually for entry of public from 23.12.2020 onwards.
2. From 23.12.2020 to 25.12.2020, the family members of the Sevaks will be allowed darshan of the Lords.
3. From 26.12.2020 to 5PM on 31.12.2020, the residents of Puri Municipality area will be allowed entry for darshan of the Lords.
4. The Temple will remain closed for public darshan on 01.01.2021 and 02.01.2021 to avoid any spike in transmission of COVID-19 as huge gathering is expected on account of New Years' Day.
5. From 03.01.2021, all will be allowed entry for darshan of the lords.

II. General guidelines on account of COVID-19 for all devotees

1. It is mandatory for all pilgrims to wear masks at all times, inside and outside the Temple.
2. Devotees should sanitize their hands before entering into the Temple.
3. Devotees should maintain physical distance at all times as per COVID guidelines.
4. Devotees are requested not to touch Statues or Idols inside the Temple.
5. It is prohibited to take flowers / Bhoga / Deepa inside the Temple. There will be big containers placed at the entrance, where such items can be dropped if being carried by the devotees.
6. There will be no lighting of 'Deepa' inside the Temple by the devotees.
7. There will be no partaking of Mahaprasad inside Ananda Bazar & Temple premises.
8. Chewing of Tobacco/ Paan & spitting inside Temple premises is strictly prohibited.
9. Parking of vehicles will be done only at Jagannatha Ballav Math premises or any other designated place.



10. Advice to senior citizen/Children/persons having co-morbidities:

Persons above 65years of age, persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women & children below 10years are advised not to visit the Temple in view of the prevailing COVID19 situation.

III. Special Arrangements:

A. Guidelines for family members of Sevaks are as per following-

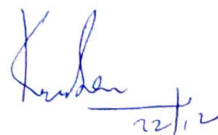
1. Family members of Sevaks will be allowed darshan from Mangal Alati till Rati Pahuda through any of the gates.
2. While entering into the temple, they are required to produce their Health Insurance Card/any other card issued by SJTA along with photo ID Card like, Aadhaar, Voter ID Card etc.
3. Entry of Non-Sevak devotees accompanying the Sevayat family members, if any, will not be allowed.

B. Guidelines for residents of Puri Municipality are as per following-

1. Queue system will open from 07.00 AM at Market Chhak.
2. Residents are required to bring with them the token provided, along with the Aadhaar Card/ Voter ID Card of all the members of the family who are visiting the Temple for darshan of Lords.
3. Residents will make entry through the barricade from Market Chhaka till Jagannatha Temple office; leave their belongings at the designated place outside the Temple; produce their ID proof for verification and follow the COVID19 guidelines of hand sanitization & thermal scanning before entering into the Temple.
4. All devotees will enter through Singhadwar. After the darshan, the exit will be through Uttaradwar.

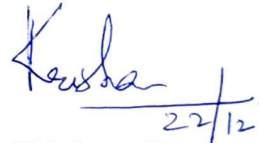
C. Guidelines for all devotees who will be visiting the Temple w.e.f 03.01.2021-

1. Queue system will open from 08.00 AM at Market Chhak.



2. All devotees will be required to bring COVID-19 negative certificate (RTPCR/Antigen) of testing done within 96 hours prior to their visit to the temple.
3. All devotees will be required to bring their photo ID Card, namely, Aadhaar/Voter ID etc.
4. Devotees will make entry through the barricade from Market Chhaka till Jagannatha Temple office; leave their belongings at the designated place outside the Temple; produce their ID proof for verification and follow the COVID19 guidelines of hand sanitization & thermal scanning before entering the Temple.
5. All devotees will enter through Singhadwar. After the Darshan, the exit will be through Uttaradwar.

The above guidelines will be reviewed periodically and revised instructions will be issued from time to time to further facilitate darshan by devotees and also for management of COVID-19 pandemic.



(Dr. Krishan Kumar, IAS)
Chief Administrator
SJTA,Puri