

POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF CARAVAN AND CARAVAN CAMPING PARKS

1. The concept of Caravan tourism has gained immense popularity across the globe owing to the freedom and flexibility it provides, while holidaying vis-a-vis itineraries and accommodation. This would include vehicles viz. Recreational Vehicle (RV), Campervans, Motor Homes etc. Caravans are a unique tourism product, which promotes family oriented tours even in circuits / destinations, which are not having adequate hotel accommodation. The specially built vehicles being used for the purpose of travel, leisure and accommodation would be termed as 'Caravan'. One of the essential pre-requisites for Caravan tourism is the presence of sufficient Caravan Parks in the identified circuits. A Caravan Park is a place where Caravans can stay overnight in allotted spaces providing basic or advanced amenities and facilities.

2. Considering the immense land area and the multitude of landscapes in India, Caravans and Caravan Parks are sure to add an exciting new facet to tourism in Incredible India. The initial demand in this niche segment is expected to come from domestic tourists and then from the inbound tourists.

3. There is at present a growing demand for eco, adventure, wildlife and pilgrimage tourism. This involves visiting and staying in remote areas, forests, deserts and riversides. There is already shortage of accommodation at tourist destinations, especially in remote areas and in certain cases at places where a permanent construction may neither be permissible nor feasible. In such a scenario, Caravan **Tourism** can effectively meet the growing demand, while ensuring adherence to quality, standards and safety norms. Caravan Tourism would attract a wide range of market segments including young people, families, senior citizens and international tourists. The Caravan tourism policy is aimed to promote and facilitate and incentivise development of

- i. Caravan Parks in the public sector, private sector and PPP mode**
- ii. Caravans in the public sector, private sector and PPP mode**

CARAVAN PARKS

4. The Operational requirements for the Caravan parks would be:

- i. Caravan Parks to be operational 24 x 7 during season
- ii. Caravan Parks to be connected by fair-weather road from the main road
- iii. Caravan Parks shall have all necessary trading licenses / NOCs from concerned authorities including fire NOC
- iv. Establishment shall have public liability insurance
- v. Standardization of electricity, water and sewage connections to ensure total compatibility with Caravan specifications in India.
- vi. The parks could be standalone or hybrid. However, in case of hybrid parks, the caravan parking facilities and related services should be physically separated and be away from other services like wayside amenities, restaurants, general vehicle parking or accommodation etc.

5. Safety & Security: The Caravan Parks have to be safe and secure zone so that the visitors have a hassle free and stress free environment. For this following mandatory requirements will need to be fulfilled:

- i. A boundary wall with limited entry and lockable gates around the Caravan Park area to avoid unnecessary trespassing and unauthorized entry is mandatory. Adequate security and safety arrangements should be made at the Caravan Park viz. deployment of security guards with a system of patrolling.
- ii. A properly equipped First Aid kit should be available at the reception and adequate first aid training should be provided to the staff. The facility of doctor on call should be available at the park. A well defined mechanism should be available to handle a medical emergency. The park management should maintain effective coordination with local medical establishments.

- iii. The supervisory staff and other workers should be trained in Disaster Management to face disasters like fire, road accidents, earthquakes, floods, landslides (in hills) etc.

6. Site Development: For setting up a Caravan Park, following are the proposed specifications required to be observed:

- i. **Land requirement for Caravan Parks:** Minimum land required would be half an acre with a minimum of 5 parking bays and a density of not more than 60 Parking Bays per hectare.
- ii. **Park Design and Location:** The proposal should be compatible with its surroundings (natural and manmade) and designed to cause the least possible disturbance to these. Open space should be of adequate dimensions and design for its intended purpose and landscaped to a standard that visually and physically separates the Caravan Park from surrounding uses and where desirable, separates uses within the park. Adequate opportunities for safe active recreation for children would be desirable. There should be a provision of proper sewage disposal, rain water harvesting & picnic tables.

The park layout should be capable of achieving adequate separation of different occupancies and activities and should be constructed to a standard suitable for use in all weather conditions.

iii. **Landscaping**

- a) Landscaping and plantation should be planned in a way to achieve privacy, screening and security.
- b) Plantations and green cover should be in accordance / line with local indigenous species.
- c) Landscaped areas should be located and designed to alleviate prevailing winds, dust and some extent, noise.

- d) Proper water harvesting structures should be put into place and wherever practical, surface water should be used for irrigating the landscaped areas.

- iv) **Open space recreation:** In addition to the buffer zone and separation strips between Caravan Parks and roads, a space or spaces for the purpose of recreation may be provided within the park at a rate of not less than 5% of the total site area.

This space should be strategically located in relation to the Caravan Parks and roads to ensure safe conditions for children with respect to vehicular movement.

- v. **Internal Roadways:** All internal roadways should be designed to provide for convenient vehicular movement within the Caravan Park. They should be of adequate width, provided with an approved surface and be adapted to the topography of the park area. The design should provide adequate drainage and the elimination of excessive grades and cut. Road levels should facilitate site drainage.

- vi. There should be provision for wheelchair accessibility in the Caravan Park

Parking Bays:

- 7. The Parking Bays are to be provided as follows:
 - i) at least one bay with a minimum size of 15m x 6 m
(Relaxable for hilly and high altitude areas).

 - ii) other bays with a minimum size of 7.5 m x 5 m

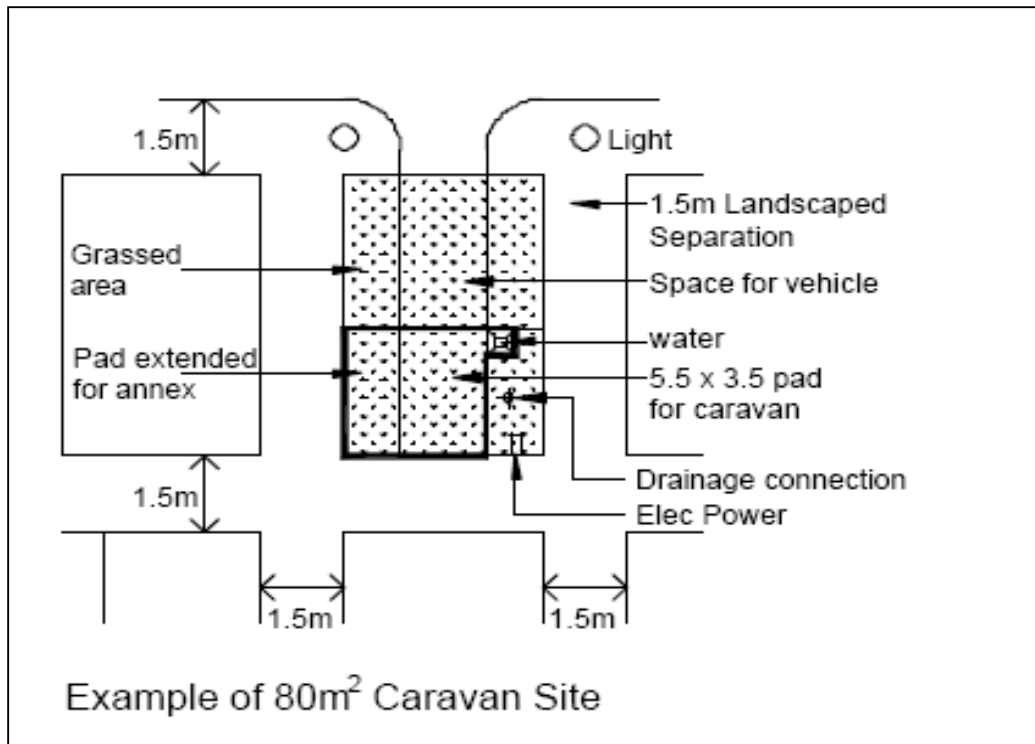
There should be a minimum gap of 5 metres between caravans. In the case of big cultural and ethnic events such as the Kumbh Mela and Pushkar Fair, where

large tracts of land are allotted for parking, the maximum number of caravans in any one Caravan Park may be relaxed to the extent feasible and desirable for the event.

Each parking bay should be clearly defined and should have direct access to a metal/ cemented service road. The parking bay should be raised minimum 6 inches from the ground. Construction of the parking bay should ideally be of brick & mortar. Each parking bay should be provided with electricity and water connections, sewerage outlets in strict adherence to international / Indian environmental norms / best eco practices

A proper exclusive landscaped area attached to each Parking Bay for the recreational facilities for tourists must be provided.

Illustrative layout of a Parking Bay



8. Services to be provided at Parking Bays

i) **Water:** The Caravan Park should be provided with a constant supply of water including a constant supply of potable water. Each parking bay should be provided

with a standpipe designed in such a way so that there is unhindered vehicular movement and approved tap fitting capable of having a hose attached thereto.

ii) Electricity and lighting: Electricity supply and distribution throughout the Caravan Park should comply with the supply authorities' codes and standards applicable. Each site should be provided with an outlet. All areas of the Caravan Park especially the parking and basic facilities areas should be well lit with provision of a generator for back up.

iii) Laundry facilities: Laundry facilities should be provided in a separate building or may form part of an amenities complex, provided the laundry facilities are separate with an internal access. Each laundry should have:

- a) A separate designated area for wash room
- b) Minimum 1 washing machine and 1 automatic dryer for 5 parking bays or part thereof
- c) An iron and an iron board to be provided on request

Toilet Facilities

9. The toilet building should have separate screened access for male and female section earmarked for the guests of the Caravan Parks and these sections shall be suitably separated, soundproofed and have an adequate supply of hot and cold water. Separate WCs for drivers should be provided.

i. Female section in respect to each 10 bays or a fraction thereof:

- a) 2 water closets (WC's)
- b) 2 wash hand basins & mirrors
- c) 2 showers and dressing areas
- d) Baby Changing facility

ii. Male section in respect to each 10 bays or a fraction thereof:

- a) 1 urinal (2 stalls)

- b) 2 water closets (WC's)
- c) 2 wash hand basins & mirrors
- d) 2 showers and dressing areas

There should be toilet facilities for the physically challenged persons and the existing parks should provide for this within two years from the date of issue of this policy.

Clarification: In case the Caravan Park has more than 10 Parking Bays, then the toilet facilities for Female and male section would increase as a multiple of these configurations for every 10 Parking Bays or part thereof.

- iii. **Low-cost ecological sanitation (Ecosan) Toilets:** New Caravan Parks should be provided with ecological sanitation (Ecosan) which offers a new philosophy of dealing with what is presently regarded as waste and wastewater. Ecosan is based on the systematic implementation of reuse and recycling of nutrients and water as a hygienically safe, closed-loop and holistic alternative to conventional sanitation solutions. Ecosan is a new holistic paradigm in sanitation, which is based on an overall view of material flows as part of an ecologically and economically sustainable wastewater management system tailored to the needs of the users and to the respective local conditions. UNDP has developed expertise in this regard. Further information on Ecosan can be accessed at <http://www.undp.org/water/initiatives/ecol.html>. Ecosan facility should be installed in the existing park within two years from the date of issue of this policy.

Movement and Parking:

10. A drive-in area and forecourt must be provided of sufficient dimensions for the parking of caravans and towing vehicles clear of the general traffic movement. Turning circles must be designed to ensure that a caravan and towing vehicle can turn in the space without disrupting the general Caravan Park area.

Tourist Facilitation Centre (TFC):

11. The TFC may be constructed providing appropriate facilities and infrastructure for tourists /campers. The architecture of the new upcoming buildings in hilly and ecologically fragile areas should incorporate creative architecture keeping in mind sustainability and energy efficiency and as far as possible in conformity with local art and architecture with use of local materials. The TFC building preferably should be restricted to ground level only.

12. The amenities and services to be provided in the TFC would be as follows:

- i. The staff should be in uniforms, well groomed and properly trained.
- ii. Front Office staff should be well versed in English.
- iii. A comprehensive list of Do's and Don'ts should be displayed in all prominent areas and guest compliance to be politely requested for.
- iv. There should be a tie- up with mechanic, tyre shop and fuel station for vehicular requirements and emergencies.
- v. At least one personnel (handyman), electrician, plumber, sweeper etc. to be available for general service and maintenance 24 hrs.
- vi. The Caravan Park should be well lit and in addition to the use of energy efficient lighting (eg CFL), the use of solar energy should be encouraged. Other non-conventional eco-friendly energy resources could be used.
- vii. Power back up system
- viii. Local maps / brochures containing necessary information.
- ix. Clean restrooms, clothes washing area.
- x. Waiting room, utility shop, and Food & Beverage outlet could be an additional facility.
- xi. Dedicated visitor parking area to be provided.

Hygiene, Responsible Standards, Environment Friendly Practices

13. Responsible tourism friendly policy should be adopted for sustainable growth which also benefits the local community and does not adversely affect the local environment. Use of eco-friendly practices and local products should be encouraged.

14. There should be a provision of facility for segregation of garbage into biodegradable (kitchen waste etc), non-bio-degradable (thermo coal products, aluminum foil, cigarette butts etc) & recyclable (newspapers, bottles, cans etc). Composting should be encouraged for the disposal of kitchen garbage. Solid waste and sewage disposal should be carried out in an orderly and eco-friendly manner. Each Caravan Park should be provided with a system for the reception, storage and disposal of all refuse and waste matter originating from the park. All such materials should be handled in a manner so as not to create any offence, hazard to health, harborage for vermin nor permit possible fly/ mosquito breeding.

Two standard pattern garbage covered receptacles / bins for bio-degradable and non-degradable waste should be provided for each parking bay which should be cleaned at least twice a day.

The Caravan Park should be provided with an adequate and safe method of sewerage collection treatment and disposal. The sewerage system should be installed in accordance with the requirements of the concerned authorities.

Each Caravan Park should be provided with an approved sewer connection point for waste water originating from the caravan.

Basic Specifications for Campervans/Caravans

15. The specially built vehicles being used for the purpose of travel, leisure and accommodation would be termed as 'Caravan' or Campervans and would include vehicles viz. RVs, Campervans, Motor Homes etc. with following minimum features:-

- i. Sofa cum bed for 2 pax.

- ii. Kitchennette with fridge and micro wave oven.
- iii. Toilet cubicle with hand shower and sufficient fresh water storage.
- iv. Partition behind driver.
- v. Communication between passenger and driver.
- vi. Air- condition (desirable).
- vii. Eating table.
- viii. Audio / video facility.
- ix. Complete charging system – external and internal.
- x. GPS – (desirable). Caravan would enable themselves with GPS facility as and when it becomes available.
- xi. Vehicle to be Bharat Stage II compliant.

Support from the local administration / State Governments / UT Administration

16. The local administration shall facilitate the agency setting up the Caravan Parks for the following service sector facilities:

- i. Waste disposal
- ii. Water supply
- iii. Electricity – single phase & 3 phase connection
- iv. LPG connection from the nearest depot if possible
- v. Other clearances / NOCs including NOC for fire safety

17. In addition, State Governments / UT Administration would facilitate the upcoming Caravan Parks in the following ways:

- i. Identifying land banks for Caravan Parks as per the categories proposed
- ii. Single window clearance for all approvals required at the State level
- iii. Developing Caravan Parks through State Tourism Corporations / Boards
- iv. Seamless movement of Caravans in the roads and through inter State borders
- v. Promote and market the Caravan Parks located in their region

Participation of local community:

18. All efforts should be made to encourage participation of the local community in the tourism related activities of the Caravan Parks. Training and sensitization of the members of the local communities should be undertaken for capacity building and for creating awareness about economic benefits of tourism to the local communities. Tourists/campers should be sensitized about the socio-cultural traditions of the local communities through brochures and signages placed at strategic locations in the park. As far as possible, the service providers should be from the local population, where the site is located.

Promotion, Facilitation and Incentivisation by Government of India

19. Promotion and Marketing

Ministry of Tourism would undertake an extensive advertisement campaign to promote the concept and also for attracting investment in the Caravan Tourism infrastructure. Approved Caravan Parks would also be promoted through the official website of the Ministry of Tourism, Incredible India media campaigns, publicity brochures, etc.

20. Financial Assistance

- i. 100% Central Financial Assistance (CFA) under the scheme "Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits" on components admissible in the scheme will be provided to the State UT Governments to develop Caravan and Camping Parks on Government / Corporation land.
- ii. CFA of 25% shall be provided for purchase of Caravans would be provided to State Government / UT Administration.

21. General: Classification, Approvals and Facilitation

- i. **Classification of Caravan and Camping Parks:** Ministry of Tourism will separately issue 'Guidelines' for Classification of Caravan and camping Parks based on the mandatory and desirable requirements / facilities.

- ii. **Approval of Caravan tour operators:** A tour operator / tourist transport operator has to have a minimum of two Caravan vehicles (having the minimum facilities as specified in para 15) in the name of the agency for approval as caravan transport tour operator. The other conditions for approval would remain the same as that applicable for transport tour operators.
- iii. **General Facilitation:** Efforts would be made to facilitate hassle free movement of Caravans, whether individually owned, commercially driven or on rental basis.
