Rites / Rituals to be performed before & after Tirthayatra

1. The Vayupurana lays out a condition that the Yatra should put on the dress of Karpati – wear a copper ring, a copper bracelet and reddish garments.

2. Sri Bhattooji, the commentator states that according to some, the apparel is to be put on by a pilgrim going to Gaya.

3. Padmapurana and Skandapurana makes the tonsure of the head, an obligatory one (restrictions are there regarding who should undergo this. different texts prescribe different things; when there is such a conflict of views, the final decision rests with the usage of each country or the individual’s choice).

Mode of Travel

1. The Matsyapurana states that, if the Yatri visits Prayag using bulls then he may go into hell and his offering will not be accepted by his ancestors. Similarly, a rich Yatri cannot use bullock carts. Like everyone, he should reach by foot.

2. Travel by foot is preferred by many scriptures like Kalpataru, Padmapurana, Kurmapurana.

3. Vishnupurana says that one should go on a journey wearing padukas, holding an umbrella in the rains or heat and most importantly, armed with a staff at night or while going through a forest.

4. Nevertheless, our Sastras give some leeway; For eg., Vishnudharmottara mentions that maximum punya is accumulated by Yatris who go on foot and for the rest, they would get the merits via taking bath in a holy place.

5. Some scriptures recommend to use a vessel to cross a river; Even today, Narmada parikramavasis use a boat to cross the river without setting foot on that.
When British or naysayers keep on harping that the concept of India was created by brits, time & again, it was mentioned India or to be precise Bharathvarsha prevailed in many forms. While taking sankalpa, the Yatri from southern or western part of India should make sankalpa of reaching Gaya, whereas a northern India pilgrim should take a sankalpa of reaching Rameswaram

Reference – “The History Of DharmaSastra” – by Sri P.V.Kane