

HELICOPTER BONANZA FOR SHRI AMARNATHJI PILGRIMS

JAMMU, APRIL 4 - At a time when air fares are going up all over the world, there is some extremely good news for the devotees who wish to perform Shri Amarnathji Yatra in 2012. The helicopter fares for the pilgrims who wish to perform Yatra this year have been reduced by over 40% on Baltal-Panjtarni route and by over 35% on Pahalgam-Panjtarni route.

Giving details, Mr. Navin Kumar Choudhary, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and Principal Secretary to Governor informed that the one way helicopter fare from Baltal-Panjtarni has been reduced from Rs. 2425/- per passenger during 2011 to Rs. 1445/- per passenger for the coming Yatra. This is a reduction of over 40% as compared to last year's fare. Similarly, the helicopter fare for Pahalgam to Panjtarni route has been reduced from Rs. 3495/- in 2011 to Rs. 2355/- per passenger for 2012 Yatra. This is a reduction of over 35% as compared to last year.

Mr. Choudhary further said that this reduction in fare will facilitate a large number of pilgrims who wish to perform the pilgrimage of Shri Amarnathji as the reduced fares now are much more affordable. He further mentioned that the contract for the helicopter services has been awarded to M/s Global Vectra Helicorp Ltd. and M/s Summit Aviation Pvt. Ltd. for Baltal-Panjtarni route while the contract for Pahalgam-Panjtarni route has been awarded to M/s Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. He further informed that the procedure of booking of tickets is being worked out and will be announced shortly alongwith the date of commencement of the booking through press release and on the website of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

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