

# Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2013

## Governor visits Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas, reviews arrangements

JAMMU, APRIL 10 – Mr. N. N. Vohra, Governor, visited Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar here last evening and took stock of the arrangements being made for the visiting Shri Amarnathji Yatris for this year's Yatra which will commence simultaneously on both the Baltal and Chandanwari routes from 28th June, 2013.

The Governor, accompanied by Mr. Atal Dulloo, Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism; Mr. Navin K. Choudhary, Principal Secretary to the Governor and the Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Mr. Pradeep Gupta, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone; Mr. Shakeel A. Beig, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu-Kathua Range; Mr. Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; Mr. Soujanya Sharma, Director Tourism, Jammu; and other senior officers of the various concerned departments, had a round of the Yatri Niwas complex and viewed the venues where the various required facilities would be put in place for the Yatris.

Later, addressing a meeting of the officers in the Yatri complex, the Governor, who is the Chairman of the Shrine Board, stressed the high importance of ensuring the best possible arrangements for the stay and onward movement of the Yatris and particularly emphasized the need to make satisfactory arrangements in regard to water and power supply, sanitation, sewage disposal, medicare and transport. He desired that the Divisional Commissioner and the Tourism Department, and all other concerned

agencies, would ensure that all the required arrangements for this year's Yatra would be in place by 20th June, 2013.

Following the presentation of the proposed plans, made by the Commissioner/Secretary Tourism Department, the Governor observed that wayside transit facilities, with all the required arrangements, from Lakhanpur to Banihal and from Banihal to the Nunwan and Baltal Base Camps should be arranged by 20th June, 2013. He added that camp wise pert charts should be prepared to specify details of various arrangements to be made and the concerned Deputy Commissioners should undertake regular reviews to ensure timely finalization.

Referring to the need for meeting Yatra requirements for the wayside halt of pilgrims in the future years, the Governor urged the Commissioner/Secretary Tourism to plan for augmenting infrastructure facilities, particularly in Jammu.

The Governor was briefed by Mr. Dulloo, Mr. Gupta and other concerned officers regarding the wayside transit camps being established in Kathua, Samba, Jammu and Udhampur districts and was assured that these will be in place well in advance before the commencement of Yatra-2013.

On this occasion, the CEO of the Board informed that registration of pilgrims for Shri Amarnathji Yatra had begun on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 for both Baltal and Chandanwari routes through 422 designated Bank Branches of Jammu & Kashmir Bank, State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, YES Bank and HDFC Bank spread all over the country.

Mr. Choudhary further informed that step-by-step procedure which the Yatris need to follow to register for the Yatra has been put on the Board's website, [www.shriamarnathjishrine.com](http://www.shriamarnathjishrine.com) which also contains the application form and state-wise list of Bank Branches with complete addresses which the Yatris can approach for registering themselves for this year's pilgrimage.

The CEO said that the applicant-Yatri shall have to furnish a valid Compulsory Health Certificate while seeking registration for this year's Shri Amarnathji Yatra. He stated that the format of the Compulsory Health Certificate and state-wise list of doctors/institutes authorised to issue it have also been put on the website of the Shrine Board.

The CEO said that the Yatra Permits for this year's Yatra would be different for each day of the week and route to facilitate Police personnel deployed at the Access Control Gates at Baltal and Chandanwari to determine whether the pilgrim possesses a Yatra Permit which is valid for the relevant date and route. In this context, he cautioned the intending Yatris against undertaking this arduous Yatra without securing a Yatra Permit. He stressed that, for ensuring effective security arrangements along the difficult tracks, only those Yatris who are in possession of a Yatra Permit which is valid for a specified date and route, will be allowed to proceed beyond the Base Camps, and cross the Entry Gates at Domel and Chandanwari. He appealed all intending Yatris to early complete the necessary formalities for Registration and timely obtain a Yatra Permit, in their own interest, so that they do not face any inconvenience on the date of their Yatra.

.....