

Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2013

No Yatra registration without Compulsory Health Certificate

Jammu, February 8, 2013 – Yatris will have to submit revised Compulsory Health Certificate while seeking registration for this year's Shri Amarnathji Yatra which is scheduled to commence on 28th June, 2013 and conclude on 21st August, 2013. This was disclosed by Shri Navin K. Choudhary, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board. He informed that a Committee of Medical Experts comprising Prof. Parveen Aggarwal, Head, Department of Emergency Medicines, AIIMS, New Delhi, Dr. J. C. Suri, Consultant, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Bhaskar Rao, CMO (SG), Composite Hospital (ITBP) Seemanagar, Chandigarh, Dr. Sanjeev Kapoor, MD Medicines, Government Hospital Sarwal, Jammu and Dr. Rafi Arshad, Medical Officer, Epidemiology, Kashmir Nursing Home, Srinagar has designed the Format of the Compulsory Health Certificate in a meeting held on 1st December 2012 at Jammu. The Format of the Compulsory Health Certificate has been circulated by the Union Health Ministry and the J&K State Health Department to all States/ UTs and is also available on the Website of the Shrine Board (www.shriamarnathjishrine.com).

The Yatris shall have to submit information in the form of self declaration about his/her existing health condition, past medical history and various ailments from which he/she may be suffering or may have suffered in the past. The authorised doctor would be required to prescribe such tests/investigations as may be necessary to ascertain the fitness of the Yatri to undertake the arduous pilgrimage before issuing the Health Certificate.

Mr. Choudhary further informed that for ensuring against the use of fraudulent Health Certificates, the Compulsory Health Certificate issued only by the doctors or Medical Institutes authorised by State Governments/ UT administration concerned will be valid for registration. He also informed that all States/ UTs have been asked to furnish a list of doctors/ Medical Institutes who would be authorised to issue the Compulsory Health Certificate to the eligible Yatris of their respective States/ UTs. He said that lists of doctors/Medical Institutes authorised to issue Compulsory Health Certificate have been received from Jharkhand, Tripura, Haryana, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh and is available on the website of the Shrine Board. The lists of Doctors/ Medical Institutes from the remaining States/UTs will be uploaded on our website as soon as these are received by the Shrine Board. For Yatra 2013, the Health Certificate issued after 1st February, 2013 would be valid. Mr. N. N. Vohra, Governor, J&K, who is Chairman of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board has asked CEO, SASB to vigorously follow up the matter with States/UTs which are yet to furnish the list of authorised Doctors/ Institutions. The Governor also directed the CEO to compile state-wise list of Authorised Doctors/Institutions and ensure its wide publicity, for the convenience of the Yatris.

It may be recalled that Supreme Court had earlier constituted a Special High Powered Committee (SHPC) to recommend measures to be implemented to ensure better facilities to the Yatris. To minimise the unfortunate deaths of the Yatris during the Yatra, the SHPC had recommended that Yatris would need to furnish a Compulsory Health Certificate for registering themselves for the Yatra.

The Apex Court had directed that a Committee of three Medical Specialists from Union Health Ministry and one from the State Government

should revise the certificate, if needed, to ensure that all the existing ailments of the intending Yatris are considered by the doctors before issuing the Health Certificate.

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