

Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2013: Registration to commence on 18th March

Revised Health Certification made compulsory

JAMMU, February 21: The process of registering Yatris for this year's Shri Amarnathji Yatra shall commence on 18th March, 2013, simultaneously for both the Baltal and Chandanwari routes, through 422 Bank Branches. The decision to commence the registration for this year's Yatra was taken during an extensive review meeting held today by the Shrine Board Chairman, Shri N. N. Vohra, with Shri Navin K. Choudhary, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Preet Pal Singh, Additional Chief Executive Officer and other concerned functionaries of the Board.

Shri Choudhary informed that Yatris who wish to undertake this year's Shri Amarnathji Yatra can register themselves from Registration Counters located all across the country through 422 designated Branches of J&K Bank, YES Bank, State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and HDFC Bank spread over all the States/UTs. Full details of all the Registration Centres has been made available on the Board's website, www.shriamarnathjishrine.com. CEO further stated that, this year's Yatra shall commence simultaneously, along both the Baltal and the Chandanwari routes, on 28th June and culminate on Raksha Bandhan, the 21st August, 2013.

The CEO informed that the applicant-Yatri shall require to submit Compulsory Health Certificate while seeking registration for this year's Shri Amarnathji Yatra. Mr. Choudhary stated that 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).

Mr. Choudhary further informed that for ensuring against the use of fraudulent Health Certificates, only such a Health Certificate which has been issued by Doctors or Medical Institutes authorised by the concerned State Government / UT Administration 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 Certificates to the eligible Yatris in their respective States/UTs. He said that lists of Doctors/ Medical Institutes authorised to issue Compulsory

Health Certificate have been received from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Jharkhand, Tripura, J&K, and Chandigarh and these can be seen on the website of the Shrine Board. The CEO informed that the lists of Doctors/ Medical Institutes from the remaining States/ UTs will be put on the website as soon as these are received from the States which have not so far responded. He said that, for Yatra 2013, Health Certificates issued after 1st March, 2013 would be valid.

CEO informed that no one below the age of 13 years or above the age of 75 years and no pregnant lady with more than six weeks pregnancy will be registered for the Yatra.

CEO stated that, under the close guidance of Shri N. N. Vohra, Governor, J&K, who is also the Chairman of the Shrine Board, it had been possible to progressively expand the Registration network every year, for enhancing the convenience of the intending Yatris. This year, the Board has been able to increase the number of Registration Counters to 422, from 276 in 2012. For the first time, SBI, PNB and HDFC Banks are participating in the registration process.

For the purpose of Registration, to be done on 'First-Come-First-Serve Basis', the requisite Application Form and the Compulsory Health Certificate Form, can be collected from any of the designated branches of J&K Bank, YES Bank, State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and HDFC Bank or downloaded from the Board's website. The Registration process will be completed when a Yatra Permit is issued to the eligible pilgrims, who shall be required to submit a duly filled-in Application Form, Compulsory Health Certificate and a payment of Rs. 30/- to cover the handling charges.

The CEO informed that provision of on-line facility has been discontinued because of the gross misuse of this facility past year, and also due to requirement of first verifying whether a Yatri possesses a valid Compulsory Health Certificate or not. He stated that for Yatra 2013 the Yatra Permit would be of a specified colour for each day of the week, to facilitate Police personnel deployed at the Access Control Gates at Domel and Chandanwari in determining whether a Yatri possesses a Yatra Permit valid for the relevant date and route. He informed that the Shrine Board will provide every Registered Yatri with an insurance cover of Rs. one

lakh against accidental death within the State during the period of one week ahead of the commencement of the Yatra to one week after the conclusion of the Yatra.

Cautioning the Yatris against undertaking this arduous Yatra without securing a Yatra Permit, Shri Choudhary 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. The CEO appealed to 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.

The CEO appealed that all intending Yatris should, in their own interest, strictly adhere to the announced Yatra schedule and, under no circumstances whatsoever, venture on the arduous track except on the date and by the route for which they possess a Yatra Permit. He also urged the Yatris, before commencing Yatra, to most carefully read the Do's and Don't's which are printed on the reverse of the Yatra Permit and are also available at the Board's website. He also advised the intending Yatris to read the Health Advisories, also available on Board's website, before embarking on the Yatra.