

# ***Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2015 SOPs for Heli Services Operators***

**Srinagar, June 22:** A meeting to review the to-date status of heli-services operations for Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2015 was held here at the Raj Bhavan. The meeting, chaired by Mr. P.K Tripathi, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board was attended by Mr. Jitendra K. Singh, Addl. CEO SASB; representatives of Director General of Civil Aviation, New Delhi, Global Vectra Helicorp Ltd, Pawan Hans Ltd. Himalayan Heli Services Pvt. Ltd. and the Chief Operation Officer, Air Force Station, Srinagar.

The meeting discussed the Standard Operating Procedures in regard to the functioning of Heli-Services within the parameters of Air Traffic Services. The to-date position of booking of Helicopter tickets for the Yatra was also reviewed. It was informed that Heli- Operators have established their offices at Srinagar, Pahalgam and Neelgrath and that the on-line helicopter ticket booking facility has been available to the intending Yatris from 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, onwards, through the websites of the aforesaid Heli-operators who also launched advance bookings through their appointed agents, again from 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 onwards.

It is pertinent to mention that Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board has made arrangements with Pawan Hans Limited and Global Vectra Helicorps Limited for providing heli-services on the Neelgrath – Panjtarni – Neelgrath Sector and the Himalayan Heli Services Private Limited for heli-services on the Pahalgam- Panjtarni-Pahalgam Sector. The one way per passenger heli-fare for Neelgrath-Panjtarni and Pahalgam - Panjtarni has been fixed at Rs 1950/- and Rs 4190/-, respectively, for Yatra - 2015.

CEO stated that Yatris who wish to avail heli-service are not required to seek Advance Registration through the designated Bank Branches as their applications for purchasing heli tickets contain the required information and the same shall be treated as Yatra Permits for undertaking the pilgrimage. However, no such Yatris shall be allowed to board the heli-services unless he produces the required Compulsory Health Certificate issued by an authorized Doctor who has been notified by the Government of the State in which he resides. Thus, every heli-travelling Yatri shall have to furnish a Compulsory Health Certificate at the time of boarding the helicopter at Neelgrath or Pahalgam, without which the boarding pass will not be issued to the pilgrims.

CEO stressed on the Heli- Operator to ensure that they comply strictly with all the safety requirements and follow ethical trade practices in accordance with the regulations prescribed by DGCA/Air Traffic Controller and the terms & conditions of their Agreements with the Shrine Board, failing which there would be serious consequences.

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