

**MANIMAHESH YATRA  
REGISTRATION PROCESS-2013**

## INTRODUCTION

Holy Manimahesh Yatra is scheduled to be held from 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 to 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. Every year it commences on the day of Janmaashtami and concludes on the Radhaashtami. During this period lakhs of pilgrims of all the age groups from across the India and a few foreign tourists perform Yatra. Manimahesh Yatra is an occasion of privilege and pride to the devotees. Traditionally the yatra commences from the base camp at Bharmour, which is located at an altitude of 7120 feet, 65 KM from the district head quarters of Chamba. At the base camp pilgrims pay obeisance at Chaurassi Temple and Bharmani Mata Temple (4 KM from Bharmour) before setting on for the most arduous 14KM long trek from Harsar (7000 feet) to holy Dal Lake(13500 feet). Manimahesh Yatra trek is a steep up climb from the very first step at Harsar and is undisputedly, the most difficult. Visitors reach Harsar which is 13 Km from Bharmour in vehicles. As per raw estimate about 3-4 lakh pilgrims visit the Dal during yatra.

The route of trek is Harsar(0 KM)-Dunali(3 KM)-Dhanchho(6 KM)-Sundrassi(9 KM)-Gauri Kund(11 km)-Dal Lake (13 KM). To facilitate and regulate the yatra enroute, the district administration appoints sector officers/sector magistrates/police personnels/medical and rescue teams. Control rooms at Bharmour, Dhanchho and at Dal Lake are made functional around the clock. Massive exercise is made to provide sanitation and toilet facilities.

Generally, a pilgrim completes his yatra in 2-3 days. For the facility of stay arrangements, district administration pitches tents at Dhanchho, Gauri Kund and at Dal lake. Besides, local shopkeepers and langarwalas do provide shelter to the pilgrims. During this span of yatra, pilgrims remain exposed to the vulnerabilities of whether vagaries and health related problems. In view of the unforeseen mishaps or natural catastrophe, it is urgently required that we keep a head count and brief information about each pilgrim. So far, there is no official and authentic data or any information about the pilgrims who have performed this yatra in previous year. **To avoid post disaster criticism and to update civic and law-order related issues, the need of a data base of pilgrims is essential. Keeping this objective in view, district administration proposes to register the pilgrims this year.**

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This will be totally an offline attempt which can form a basis for more technology based solution in time to come. In wake of the judgement dated 13-12-2012 by the Hon'ble Apex court of India in suo moto writ petition (Civil) No 284 of 2012, Court on its own motion Vs Union of India and others, wherein a directive besides many others, was issued to State of Jammu & Kashmir and the Amarnath Ji Shrine Board to compulsory register the Amarnath Yatris for their safety and convenience and the unfortunate Calamity of Uttrakhand, it is axiomatic that we take necessary steps in this direction soon.

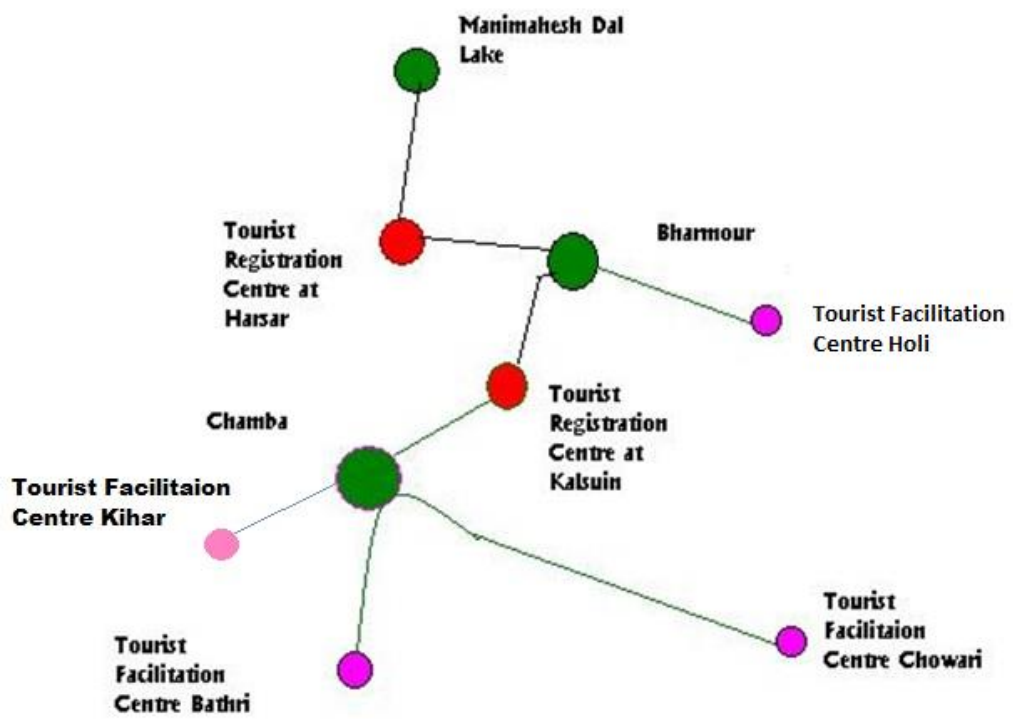
## MECHANISM

Step by step procedure for Manimahesh Yatra Registration-2013 is as under:

1. Distribution of Registration Forms (free of cost) will be made at temporary Tourist Advisory Posts at Chowari, Bathri and Kihar. Besides, Registration Forms will also be made available at district website, circuit house Dalhousie and Chamba, Bus stand Chamba, strategically located roadside dhabas and through langarwalas and taxi/bus operators.
  2. It has been observed that by and large pilgrims visit Manimahesh in groups. The emphasis is to take information of each member of a group on single Registration Form. Though, individual pilgrims will also be registered.
  3. Pilgrims will be advised to fill the Registration Form which will also contain information about control rooms, emergency telephone numbers, medical camps, camping sites and dos and don'ts during yatra.
  4. Collection of Registration Forms of inbound pilgrims will be done at **Registration Centre Kalsuin 15 KM from Chamba on Bhamour Road** and in turn **three Registration Slips** bearing unique registration number will be issued.
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5. Only one person (group leader) will deboard the vehicle to handover the Registration Form and he will be provided Registration Slips in less than one minute so that there is minimum resistance and inconvenience to the visitors.
  6. Inbound pilgrims will deposit the **First Registration Slip** at Harsar Registration Centre (1 KM from Harsar).
  7. On return journey Second Registration Slip will be handed over at Harsar Registration Centre.
  8. Outbound pilgrim will deposit the Third Registration Slip at Registration Centre Kalsuin.
  9. A computerized data base of the inbound and outbound pilgrims' registration numbers will be maintained. A software will developed by NIC Chamba for creating and maintaining this data base. This software will give several reports which will enable us to know number of inbound and outbound pilgrims on every day and their identity. Also it will be possible to know number and identity of people present at Manimahesh.
  10. In this way at the end of day we will have the information of human traffic in between Kalsuin-Bharmour Sector and Harsar-Dal Lake sector.
  11. Efforts will be made to have a head count of visitors including pilgrims, pony walas, potters etc at Dhanchho, Gouri Kund and Dal Lake.
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# LAYOUT



## **GOALS**

1. To register all devotees visiting Manimahesh with minimum inconvenience to pilgrims.
2. To record the number of pilgrims visiting MM on foot, in contract carriage, in stage carriage, in private vehicles and on foot.
3. To register inbound and outbound pilgrims at Kalsuin and Harsar.
4. To record number of Male, Female pilgrims with age.
5. To record the number of pilgrims between Kalsuin-Bharmour , Harsar- Dal Lake Sector.
6. To educate and guide the visitors about the Dos & Don'ts during Yatra.
7. To educate and guide the visitors about various facilities available to them.

## **BENEFITS**

1. Better future planning and proper policy formulation for future.
  2. More pro-active approach from administration when actual number of visitors' data is available.
  3. Better planning for the visitors based on actual assessment of age and gender.
  4. Better and planned management in the event of any natural disaster.
  5. To regulate vehicular and human traffic in case of compelling circumstances.
  6. To have pre-pilgrimage health check, if need be.
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