

News & Views

Tamil Nadu Offers Subsidy For Pilgrims Travelling To Mansarovar, Muktinath

Source

CHENNAI, INDIA, August 4, 2012 (The Hindu): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa today approved an allocation of US\$224,200 towards subsidizing the travel of Hindu pilgrims to the holy sites of Mansarovar and Muktinath, both in foreign countries.

The State Government will bear US\$717 of the US\$1800 estimated per individual for air travel to Mansarovar in China and US\$179 towards those visiting Muktinath, one of the 108 Vaishnavite shrines which is located in Nepal.

A total of 500 beneficiaries, 250 each for either destination, would be covered under the scheme. Selection of pilgrims will be done by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (HR&CE) Department from October 15 by issuing print advertisements. The department will select the beneficiaries under relevant guidelines, it said.

Massive Sanitation Drive Launched Post Amarnath Yatra

Source

SRINAGAR, INDIA, August 3, 2012 (Economic Times): A massive sanitation drive has been launched en route to the 12,700 feet-high Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas to safeguard environment and ecology of the area. "A post-yatra sanitation drive has been launched in collaboration with the security forces and development authorities to clean up the camp sites and tracks," Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) Chief Executive Officer N. K. Choudhary said.

Several Hindu religious leaders and environmentalists have expressed grave concern over tons of wastes like plastic bottles, wrappers and other non-biodegradable pollutants left behind by the pilgrims at base camps and various halting stations en route to the cave shrine, thereby threatening the ecology of the yatra area.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir governor and SASB chairman N. N. Vohra has convened a post-yatra review meeting here on August 8 to assess camp-wise and route-wise the adequacy of the arrangements that were made for the conduct of 2012 yatra. Over 621,000 pilgrims visited the holy cave during this year's yatra, which culminated yesterday, coinciding with the occasion of 'Raksha bhandan'

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