STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN THE YATRA AREA DURING SHRI AMARNATHJI YATRA.

1.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE YATRA AREA

1.1 The Holy Cave of Shri Amarnathji is situated at an altitude of 13,500 feet above sea level in District Anantnag of Kashmir Province. Depending upon weather and other factors, the annual Yatra takes place for a given period during June-August every year. Yatris may take one of the following two routes to the Holy Cave Shrine:

i) Pahalgam (7500 ft) – Chandanwari (9500 ft) – Pissughati (11500 ft) – Sheshnag (11730) – MG Top (14500 ft) – Panjtarni (12729) - Holy Cave (13500 ft). This traditional route of the Yatra from Chandanwari is 32 km long.

ii) Baltal (9500 ft) – Sangam (11808 ft) – Brarimarg (13120 ft) – Holy Cave (13500 ft). This route is about 14 km long.

1.2 This pilgrimage, which involves trekking in high altitude areas in difficult terrain and quick changing weather conditions, is organised every year with the active involvement of the State Government, Central Government Department, Security Forces namely Army, BSF, CRPF, J&K Police and the local population, particularly the residents of Anantnag and Ganderbal districts.

1.3 Notwithstanding the year to year variations due to the weather and other factors, the number of pilgrims who visited the Holy cave in the past is as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Number of Pilgrims</th>
<th>Day Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>60 days</td>
<td>4,00,000</td>
<td>6,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>60 days</td>
<td>3,88,000</td>
<td>6,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>60 days</td>
<td>3,47,000</td>
<td>5,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>60 days</td>
<td>2,96,656</td>
<td>4,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>60 days</td>
<td>5,33,368</td>
<td>8,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>60 days</td>
<td>3,92,653</td>
<td>6,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>55 days</td>
<td>4,51,709</td>
<td>8,212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.0  **PAST HISTORY OF DISASTERS/ACCIDENTS IN THE YATRA AREA**

2.1 As per the records available with Shrine Board, a major disaster took place during the Yatra in 1996, in which 243 people died. The disaster was precipitated by heavy rains, snow and high winds. To enquire into the tragedy, the Nitish Sen Gupta Committee was set up by the Union Home Ministry. The Committee’s report stated that, for Yatra 1996, the movement of Yatris in convoys started from Jammu from 16\(^{th}\) August and continued without difficulty till 22\(^{nd}\) August. Due to heavy rainfall on 22\(^{nd}\) morning, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag and the Police Officers deployed on the upper reaches of the route stopped the Yatra from moving further. By that time, about 52,000 pilgrims were already on the track between Chandanwari and the Holy Cave. By early afternoon of 22\(^{nd}\) August, it started snowing in the upper reaches and the snowfall steadily increased in intensity, accompanied by blizzards. It rained and snowed continuously from 22\(^{nd}\) August till morning of 25\(^{th}\) August, 1996. The floods that immediately surged in the wake of this natural calamity disrupted the communication system at a large number of places between Pahalgam and Khannabal for 4-5 days. The Committee, in its report, mentioned that there was little that any human efforts could do so long as the adverse weather conditions lasted.

2.2 The Committee, interalia, observed that:

(i) the authorities failed to estimate the number of pilgrims for the 1996 Yatra.

(ii) there was a systematic effort to push the pilgrims beyond Pahalgam to higher reaches as soon as possible, which added to the unusually high number of pilgrims already stranded in the upper reaches.

(iii) the unprecedented natural disaster did paralyse and stupefy the State Administration for the first 2/3 days. Isolated Government personnel were unable to do anything significant by way of rescue and relief. But from 25\(^{th}\) August onwards they managed the crisis, aided significantly by the Army, the Air Force and other Security Forces.
(iv) the Meteorological Department had failed to give any realistic forecast of the shape of the things to come.

(v) the administrative preparations, while they were satisfactory on the basis of the past trends of number of pilgrims, proved inadequate for the actual number of Yatri arrivals.

(vi) that the administration was not prepared for handling the natural disaster which visited the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir and affected the higher reaches of the mountains with particular severity, and

(vii) there is a need to introduce a certain degree of professionalism in disaster management rather than leaving it to the piecemeal, ad-hoc and at times primitive approach of rescue and relief being taken separately by different agencies of the Government.

2.3 Other major incidents which resulted in casualties in the Yatra area are as follows:

i) Deaths due to chopper crash at Holy Cave.

ii) Deaths/ injuries due to terrorist attacks.

iii) Deaths/ injuries due to fall from horse/ pony.

iv) Deaths/ injuries due to fall from steep slopes.

v) Deaths due to electrocution.

3.0 **BROAD APPROACH FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF DISASTERS IN THE YATRA AREA**

3.1 Sub-section (2) of Section 30 of the National Disaster Management Act 2005 mandates that the District Disaster Management Authority shall be set up, with Collector/ District Magistrate/ Deputy Commissioner as the ex-officio chairperson. Under Section 30 of the Act, the District Disaster Management Authority has been, interalia, vested with the following powers and functions:

(i) to prepare a Disaster Management Plan including District Response Plan for the District.

(ii) to coordinate and monitor the implementation of National Policy, State Policy, National Plan, State Plan and District Plan is respect of management of disasters;

(iii) to prepare review and update district level response plan and guidelines.

(iv) to coordinate response to any threatening disaster situation or disaster
(v) to set up, maintain, review and upgrade the mechanism for early warning and dissemination of proper information to public.
(vi) to establish stockpiles of relief and rescue materials or ensure preparedness to make such materials available at a short notice.
(vii) to identify buildings and places which could be used as relief centres or camps in the event of disasters and make arrangements for water supply and sanitation in such buildings or places.

3.2 This document has been prepared to assist the District Disaster Management Authority in discharge its responsibilities under the National Disaster Management Act 2005 and not to replace the District Disaster Management Plan in respect of disasters which may occur in the Yatra area. These SoPs may, therefore, be integrated with the District Disaster Management Plan and implemented under the overall supervision of District Disaster Management Authority.

4.0 POSSIBLE DISASTER IN THE YATRA AREA

Considering the topography, weather, past experience etc., the Yatra area is prone to the following disasters:

i) Avalanche/ Cloud Burst/ Flash floods/ Heavy snow

ii) Shooting stones/ land slides

iii) Fire

iv) Stampede

v) Earthquake

vi) Terrorist attack

5.0 VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

5.1 Avalanche/ Cloud Burst/ Flash floods/Heavy snow: The weather on the Yatra route changes frequently - it can change suddenly from bright, sunny to heavy rain/ snowfall, particularly in afternoon every day. Due to high intensity sustained rainfall or snowfall over a longer period, there is a likelihood of avalanches, cloud burst, flash floods and heavy snow on the tracks especially in the upper reaches of the Yatra area. The more vulnerable stretches for cloud burst, heavy rain, flash floods and heavy snow are Panjtarni, Sheshnag, Holy Cave, MG Top, Wavbal Top, Poshpatri, Brarimarg, Baltal and Sangam. The nala at the Holy Cave area is most vulnerable to flash floods given the topography of the area. The potential of loss to human life and property, in this location, is highest because the area adjoining the nala is crowded with Yatris and other Service Providers.
5.2 **Shooting stones/ land slides**: The Yatra area is located in fragile, young Himalayan Mountains, an area with loose soil, which is prone to landslides and shooting stones, particularly after heavy rains. On the basis of steepness of the uphill slopes, the more vulnerable stretches for shooting stones and landslides are tracks from Railpatri to Brarimarg, Panjtarni to Sangam Top, Wavbal to MG Top, Kalimata track and Holy Cave area.

5.3 **Fire**: A large number of Langars/ tents are pitched in the Yatra Camps at Baltal/ Domel, Holy Cave, Panjtarni, Sheshnag, Chandanwari and Nunwan. The Langars store and use LPG for cooking food. In addition, various Service Providers also do cooking in their tents. **All this makes Baltal/ Domel, Holy Cave, Panjtarni, Sheshnag, Chandanwari and Nunwan Camps vulnerable to fire.**

5.4 **Stampede**: The number of Yatris visiting the Holy Cave have increased tremendously in the recent years. Besides, sizeable numbers of service providers, Palkiwallas/ Dandiwallas/ Ponywalls/ Pithus/ labourers also travel on the tracks. If there is laxity in enforcement of Access Control Measures in the Yatra area, there is every likelihood of stampede occurring in the Yatra area. The areas more vulnerable to stampedes are Holy Cave, Sheshnag, Panjtarni, tracks from Sangam to Holy Cave and Access Control Gates at Chandanwari and Domel.

5.5 **Earthquake**: The Yatra area falls in Zone IV as per the Earthquake Hazard Zoning Map of India. This zone has been rated as ‘High Damage Risk Zone’. As the Yatris and other Service Providers mostly stay in tents, the potential of damage to human life and property due to collapse of few pucca structures in the Yatra area is limited. However, the earthquake may trigger avalanches, landslides, and shooting stones, which may cause extensive loss. In this context, all the Yatra Camps and other locations mentioned in para 5.1-5.4 are vulnerable.

5.6 **Terrorist Attacks**: Considering the security scenario, topography of the Yatra area, high potential of terrorist attacks on the Yatris to create Law and Order situation throughout the State and the country, sensitive nature of the Yatra, and the high publicity the Yatra generates, the entire Yatra area is highly prone to terrorist attacks.

6.0 **SoPs FOR DISASTER MITIGATION**

6.1 **SoPs for preventing Fires**: 

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6.1.1 Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag and Ganderbal shall: (i) ensure that adequate fire gaps are maintained in the tented accommodation area; (ii) formulate a calendar for Fire and Emergency Services Department officials to inspect the site and furnish weekly report thereof to the respective Deputy Commissioners.  

[Action by DC Anantnag and Ganderbal and District Fire Service Officers]

6.1.2 Fire and Emergency Services Department shall keep adequate number of Fire Tenders/ portable Fire Fighting equipment, along with requisite number of Firemen available at all the Yatra Camps.  

[Action by DG Fire Services]

6.1.3 Deputy Commissioners of Gandarbal and Anantnag shall ensure that officials of Fire and Emergency Services Department, with the assistance of Police, effectively supervise the pitching of tents to ensure that proper gaps are maintained between Tents/ Langars when these are pitched in the Camps.  

[Action by DC Anantnag and Ganderbal, and District Fire Service Officers by 25th June, 2013]

6.1.4 Every Langar Organization shall maintain an updated list of inflammable material like Kerosene oil, Ghee, LPG cylinders, etc., being stored at its Langar site. Every Langar Organization shall install adequate fire-fighting equipment viz. 3 Soda acid type fire extinguishers of 9 litres each and 3 foam fibre (FB 2) type extinguishers of 9 litres each at site before commencing their cooking activities. Every Langar Organization shall have to obtain an NoC from the Fire and Emergency Services Department, J&K, to the effect that it possesses Fire Fighting Equipment as mentioned in this para and has also taken adequate measures to ensure preparedness for fire safety. The CEO, SASB, shall ensure that the Terms and Conditions of Langar Permissions are accordingly modified.  

[Action by CEO, SASB]

6.1.5 The State Fire and Emergency Services Department should periodically inspect whether the Langar Organizations have adhered to conditions mentioned in para 6.1.4 and made adequate arrangements for fire fighting and submit weekly reports in this regard to the Deputy Commissioner concerned.  

[Action by District Fire and Emergency Service Officers of Anantnag and Ganderbal]

6.1.6 The Deputy Commissioner concerned shall give permissions to Tentwallas subject to the condition that they install a portable Fire Extinguisher in their tents. District Fire and Emergency Service Officer of
Anantnag and Ganderbal districts shall ensure that Tentwallas comply with the aforesaid condition. [Action by Deputy Commissioner and District Fire and Emergency Service Officers of Anantnag and Ganderbal]

6.1.7 J&K Police will ensure that no Yatri is allowed to carry any kind of inflammable material with him/her beyond the Access Control Gates at Domel and Chandanwari and inside Baltal and Nunwan Camps. [Action by J&K Police]

6.1.8 CAPD shall ensure that LPG, kerosene and other such inflammable materials are stored at least 500 meters away from tents pitched for Yatris/ Service Providers/ Langars. [Action by Director, CAPD]

6.1.9 Fire and Emergency Services Department shall keep sufficient quantity of foam at each Camp location to meet any emergency such as helicopter crash. [Action by DG Fire Services]

6.1.10 J&K Police shall ensure that no Yatris carries/ smokes cigarettes/ bidis/ hookah/chillum on both the Yatra tracks, Langars/ Shelter sheds and Camps. [Action by J&K Police]

6.2 SoPs for preventing Stampedes

6.2.1 J&K Police shall ensure strict enforcement of Access Control Measures at Domel and Chandanwari to ensure that only registered Yatris having Yatra Permits for that day are allowed to cross the Access Control Gates. [Action by J&K Police]

6.2.2 The Police shall ensure that no unregistered Yatris is able to enter the Base Camps at Baltal and Chandanwari as this may lead to huge rush at Base Camps, which in turn can cause stampede. [Action by J&K Police]

6.2.3 J&K Police shall ensure that Yatris are released in batches, staggered over a time period, from Base Camps of Chandanwari and Baltal so as to avoid over-crowding on the tracks. [Action by J&K Police during Yatra]

6.2.4 J&K Police and other Security Forces shall ensure that darshans at the Holy Cave are regulated in such a manner that there is no stoppage of Yatris in front or near the Holy Cave, particularly when VIPs visit the Holy Cave. [Action by J&K Police and all other Security Forces]
6.2.5 Chief Engineer, R&B, Kashmir, (for Baltal route) and CEO, PDA, (for Chandanwari route) should upgrade the tracks in the Yatra area as per the decisions taken by the Sub-committee (constituted by the Apex Court vide its judgment dated 13th December 2012 in WP 284/2012). \[Action by Chief Engineer, R&B, and CEO, PDA, as per the timelines approved by the Sub-Committee\]

6.2.6 Chief Engineer, R&B, Kashmir, (for Baltal route) and CEO, PDA, (for Chandanwari route) shall provide railings along the tracks on Baltal route and Chandanwari route, respectively, as per the decisions taken by the Sub-committee (constituted by the Apex Court vide its judgment dated 13th December 2012 in WP 284/2012) so that Yatris do not fall from edges of the tracks down the steep slopes during stampede or otherwise. \[Action by Chief Engineer, R&B, and CEO, PDA, as per the timelines approved by the Sub-Committee\]

6.2.7 To enable senior-most officials to monitor, in real-time, whether Yatra is being effectively regulated or not at the Access Control Gates, CEO, SASB, shall explore the possibility of: (i) installing CCTVs (which show the time as well as number of Yatris who cross the Access Control Gates in a given time) at Access Control Gates at Domel and Chandanwari; (ii) linking these CCTVs via internet with Control Rooms at Srinagar. \[Action by CEO, SASB\]

6.2.8 Information Department, J&K, shall ensure the installation of effective Public Address System at each Camp location in the Yatra area, and at Access Control Gates at Domel and Chandanwari, to make important announcement for the Yatris so that no scope is left for rumours to spread and necessary instructions could be given to Yatris at regular intervals. \[Action by Director, Information, J&K by 20th June, 2013\]

6.3 SoPs for preventing Avalanches/ Cloud Bursts/ Flash floods

6.3.1 Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) shall install Automatic Weather Stations at Chandanwari, Sheshnag, Panjtarni, Holy Cave and Baltal and also Weather Display Boards at Baltal and Chandanwari to apprise the Yatris about the impending weather. \[Director, IMD, Srinagar\]

6.3.2 IMD shall provide advance warning of snow fall and rain fall in the Yatra area to District Disaster Management Control Room to be set up by the Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag. The Indian Meteorological Department shall also provide regular weather forecasts and SMS service to Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Divisional
Commissioner, Jammu; IGP Kashmir; IGP Jammu; CEO, SASB, and Senior Superintendent of Police of Gandarbal and Anantnag, among other identified officers.  

[Action by Director, IMD, Srinagar]

6.3.3 The list of officials to whom IMD shall send SMS shall be provided by CEO, SASB to Director, IMD, Srinagar.  

[CEO, SASB]

6.3.4 On receipt of warning/ alert from IMD, District Disaster Management Authority (Deputy Commissioner concerned) shall issue early warning and disseminate proper information to the Yatris through Joint Control Rooms in the Yatra area, and besides trigger other measures contained in the District Disaster Management Plan. The District Disaster Management Authority (Deputy Commissioner concerned) shall, in consultation with District Police and CEO, SASB, decide steps to be taken to regulate the Yatra whenever the weather in the Yatra area is inclement and when early warning in this regard is received from IMD.  

[Action by Deputy Commissioner concerned]

6.3.5 Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, shall monitor that the Yatra Magistrate at Holy Cave ensures that the Langars/ Tents are pitched at safe distance from the nallah in the Holy Cave Area.  

[Action by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag]

6.3.6 Tourism Department shall provide Shelter Sheds at regular distances along the Yatra tracks where the Yatris can take shelter during times of incessant rains/ snow/ storms. Tourism Department shall erect a total of 30 Dome type shelter sheds along with linked toilets at identified locations in the Yatra area.  

[Action by Tourism Department]

6.3.7 Tourism Department will ensure that all pucca dome type structures in the Yatra area are completely repaired and provided with doors, windows, toilets etc., so that the aforesaid structures can be used during emergencies or for Rescue and Relief operations during disaster(s)  

[Action by Tourism Department]

6.3.8 All Security Forces shall ensure that they do not occupy the structures mentioned in para 6.3.6 and 6.3.7 under any circumstances so that these structures are available to the Yatris to take shelter during emergencies or for Rescue and Relief operations during disaster(s).  

[Action by all Security Forces]
6.3.9 To deal with any drowning incident, J&K Police shall deploy the divers and boats for quick rescue operations/ fishing out of dead bodies at the vulnerable places on Yatra route, particularly at Base Camps, Sonamarg and Pahalgam. [Action by J&K Police]

6.4 SoPs for preventing Shooting Stones/ Landslides

6.4.1 J&K Police shall deploy five Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs) comprising of ten police personnel each in the Yatra area at Sheshnag, Poshpathri, Lower Holy Cave, Sangam and Brarimarg to spot signs of landslides and alert the Joint Control Rooms. [Action by J&K Police]

6.4.2 The Joint Control Rooms shall coordinate with other Security Forces and stop the Yatra immediately whenever landslides are reported or when there is an unusual occurrence of shooting stones or when there are incessant rains in the areas vulnerable (ref para 5.2) to shooting stones/ landslides. [Action by Joint Control Rooms]

6.4.3 The Pahalgam Development Authority (in respect of Pahalgam route) and Public Works Department (in respect of Baltal route) shall ensure that suitable engineering measures like breast walls, proper drainage structures/outlets, etc are provided when they widen/ upgrade the Yatra tracks, so as to reduce the chances of shooting stones/ landslides. [Action by CEO, PDA and Chief Engineer, PWD in respect of tracks under their jurisdiction]

6.4.4 CEO, SASB shall ensure that signages/ display boards are installed to warn the Yatris to be alert in the area vulnerable to shooting stones. [Action by CEO, SASB]

6.5 SoPs for preventing damage due to Earthquakes

As the earthquake may trigger avalanche, flash floods, landslides, and shooting of stones, which may cause extensive loss, the SoPs stipulated in para 6.1- 6.4 needs to be followed by the Agencies mentioned therein.

6.6 SoPs for preventing Terrorist Attacks

6.6.1 Army, Police and other Security Forces shall take action as per their departmental SoPs in the matter. Directions/ inputs received in this
regard from intelligence agencies and Unified HQ should be promptly shared with other Security Forces/ intelligence agencies and necessary action should be initiated to prevent any mishap. **[Action by all Security Forces]**

6.6.2 **Besides adequate deployment of Security Forces at the Yatra Camps, and at other strategic locations along the Yatra tracks, aerial surveillance of the Yatra Area may be undertaken and spotters may be deployed in adequate numbers at the Yatra Camps, particularly at the Holy Cave Shrine area to spot unwanted activities/ suspicious characters.** **[Action by all Security Forces]**

7.0 **SoPs FOR RESCUING ILL/INJURED YATRIS**

7.1 CEO, SASB, shall request National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to organize Table Top exercises at Baltal and Pahalgam to oversee Disaster Management preparedness and sensitize various stakeholders in this regard. **[CEO, SASB]**

7.2 State Health Department should set up well equipped Medical Camps at a distance of about 2 km on both the axis, in coordination with Army, CRPF/ BSF, ITBP, other Security Forces and NGOs. **[Action by Health Department]**

7.3 Director, Health Services, Kashmir shall ensure that sufficient quantity of medicines, and medical equipment are available in the Medical Camps throughout the Yatra period. **[Action by Director, Health Department, Kashmir]**

7.4 CEO, SASB, shall make concerted awareness campaign before and during Yatra to advise the Yatris about health related problems that may occur in the Yatra area and the precautions to be taken by them in this regard. **[Action by CEO, SASB]**

7.5 MRTs/ SDRF shall be deployed by the J&K Police, along with necessary equipment at strategic locations viz. MG Top, Sheshnag, Panjtarini, Lower Holy Cave, Sangam and Brarimarg well before commencement of Yatra. **[Action by J&K Police]**

7.6 MRTs/ SDRF teams deployed on the routes shall identify sick/ injured Yatris and shift them to the nearest Medical Aid Centre (MAC) for treatment, and also assist weak/ infirm Yatris in negotiating difficult stretches of the tracks. **[Action by MRTs/ SDRF Teams]**
7.7 Camp Director, Base Camps, shall arrange required number of *dandis* for evacuation of sick/ injured Yatris. **[Action by Camp Directors concerned, SASB]**.

7.8 CEO, SASB, shall advance adequate imprest money to each Camp Director, SASB, to enable them to arrange transportation of sick/ injured Yatris to the Chandanwari and Baltal. **[Action by CEO, SASB]**

7.9 At each Yatra Camp, a three-member Committee comprising Camp Yatra Officer/ Magistrate (Revenue), senior-most Doctor of the Health Department in the Camp and Camp Director, SASB (Chairman of the Committee), on receiving a reference from an MAC, shall decide and identify those Yatris who genuinely need to be evacuated immediately. **[Action by CEO, SASB]**

7.10 To expeditiously evacuate ill/ injured Yatris from off-camp locations, helipads at Brarimarg, Kelnar, and Sangam etc shall be provided for which Public Works Department (for helipads along Baltal route) and Pahalgam Development Authority (for helipads along Chandanwari route) shall obtain the necessary forest clearances and carry out the necessary construction. **[Action by CEO, PDA and Chief Engineer, PWD]**

7.11 The State Health Department shall make available adequate number of Ambulances / Critical Care Ambulances (with drivers and POL) round the clock at Baltal, Nunwan, Chandanwari and Pahalgam for transporting seriously sick/ injured persons to the hospitals at Srinagar/ Ganderbal/ Anantnag for specialised treatment. **[Action by Secretary, Health]**

7.12 The SDRF and the local Police shall keep available sufficient number of Divers and Boats at Baltal and Pahalgam, and at other strategic locations for rescue operation to deal with cases of drowning. **[Action by SSPs of district concerned]**

8.0 **POST DISASTER RESPONSE**

8.1 In the event of disaster of any kind, evacuation and rescue operations shall be launched immediately by the Camp Yatra Officer (Revenue) concerned in coordination with all other agencies located in the Camp area. A Committee headed by Camp Yatra Officer (Revenue) and comprising Camp Yatra Officer (Police), Camp Director (SASB), senior-most doctor in the Camp concerned, and senior-most officer each from Army and other Para-military Forces stationed in the Camp, shall
immediately arrange evacuation and rescue operation in the event of disaster of any kind. **[Action by Camp Yatra Officer (Revenue)]**

8.2 In case of any disaster whether man-made or natural, in-charge of the area (place of incident) or Camp Yatra Officer (Revenue), with least possible delay, shall inform the District Disaster Management Control Room [Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag] and Joint Control Room about the disaster and ensure involvement of all the stake-holders for evacuation and rescue operations. **[Action by Camp Yatra Officer (Revenue)]**

8.3 Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag shall make District Disaster Management Authority fully functional to deal with the situation in case of any kind of disaster. They shall make arrangements for air lifting of affected persons/ rescue teams by requisitioning the services of helicopters of the State Government and Indian Air Force. **[Action by Deputy Commissioner concerned]**

8.4 The District Disaster Management Authority shall identify resource personnel, volunteers and equipment which may be required for rescue operations and circulate a list in regard thereto to CEO, SASB, and all other stake-holders concerned before the Yatra. **[Action by Deputy Commissioner concerned]**

8.5 District administration shall immediately stop inflow of pilgrims into the disaster affected area, launch emergency search and rescue operations, shift causalities to nearby Medical Aid Centres/ Hospitals and distribute disaster management stores stocked at each Camp. **[Action by Deputy Commissioner concerned]**

9.0 **COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION**

9.1 Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag shall activate District Disaster Management Control Rooms (DDMCRs) at their respective district headquarters. DDMCRs shall be responsible for directing and coordinating the disaster response during emergencies. Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag shall also ensure that State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) is requisitioned well in advance and stationed at Holy Cave, Panjtarni, Sheshnag, Baltal and Nunwan. **[Action by Deputy Commissioner concerned]**

9.2 District Police concerned shall set up Joint Control Room headed by Camp Yatra Officer (Revenue), comprising of Camp Director (SASB),
Camp Yatra Officer (Police), senior most officers each from Army and other Security Forces at each Camp. These Control Rooms shall be linked with the DDMCR concerned. **[Action by SSPs concerned]**

9.3 In the event of any disaster, Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag shall pass on the directions to the Joint Control Rooms through the DDMCRs. **[Action by Deputy Commissioner concerned]**

9.4 Two personnel from each Security Force shall be identified and remain available at Joint Control Room of each Camp for deployment in case of any unforeseen eventuality. **[Action by all Security Forces concerned]**

9.5 Camp Yatra Officer (Revenue) at each camp shall overall supervise the relief and rescue operations and shall ensure that adequate disaster relief stores are maintained and properly utilized in the event of a disaster. **[Action by Camp Yatra Officer (Revenue) concerned]**

9.6 CEO, SASB, shall coordinate with DoT to provide mobile connectivity in the Yatra area. **[Action by CEO, SASB]**

9.7 J&K Police shall provide Wireless coverage at all Yatra Camps in the Yatra area for better communication. **[Action by DGP]**

9.8 CEO, SASB, shall ensure installation of Satellite Phones at Holy Cave, Sheshnag, and Panjtarni. **[Action by CEO, SASB]**

9.9 Information Department shall ensure installation of upgraded Public Announcement System at each Camp location and also at vulnerable points to make important announcement for the Yatris so that no scope is left for rumours to spread and necessary instructions could be given to the Yatris. **[Action by information Department]**

10.0 **DISASTER RELIEF STORES**

10.1 Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag shall maintain adequate stock of disaster relief stores, including sleeping bags, mattresses and food item in their district headquarters.

10.2 *Besides, Army shall maintain adequate quantities of items required by pilgrims during inclement weather on both routes of the Yatra.* **[Action by Army]**
10.3 Besides, CRPF, ITBP, BSF, SDRF, and other Security Forces shall also maintain disaster relief stores at all Camps as per the past practice.

[Action by Security Forces]
Subject:- Standard Operating Procedure for Disaster Management in the Yatra Area during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.
Reference:- Suo Moto Writ Petition (Civil) No.284 of 2012 in the Hon’ble Supreme Court-titled Court on its Own Motion Versus Union of India and Others.

Government Order No. – Home of 2013
D a t e d:- - 06 - 2013

Sanction is hereby accorded to the adoption of the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP), as per annexure to this Government Order, for Disaster Management in the Yatra Area during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.


Sd/-
( Suresh Kumar) IAS
Principal Secretary to Government Home Department

NO:- PS/Home/2013-3192 Dated:- 10 - 06-2013

Copy for information and necessary action to:
1. Chief Secretary, J&K.
2. GOC-in_C, Northern Command, J&K.
3. All Financial Commissioners/ Principal Secretaries/ Commissioner Secretaries/ Secretaries to Government.
4. GOC XV Corps, Srinagar.
5. GOC XIV Corps.
6. GOC XVI Corps, Jammu.
7. Director General of Police, J&K.
8. Additional Director General of Police, Home Guards, Civil Defence and SDRF, J&K, Srinagar.
10. Additional Director General of Police, Armed, J&K.
11. Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amatnath Ji Shrine Board, with a request to circulate the copies of SoP among all camp Directors/Yatra Officers.

12. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/ Jammu


15. Inspector General of Police ( Admin) CRPF, Srinagar.

16. Inspector General of Police (Ops), Kashmir

17. Inspector General of BSF, Kashmir

18. Inspector General of Police, ITBP, Srinagar

19. Director General Fire and Emergency Services, J&K

20. Director, Health Services, Kashmir

21. Director Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Srinagar

22. Director, Information Department, J&K.

23. Director, Indian Meteorological Department, Srinagar.

24. Chief Engineer, R&B, Kashmir

25. Joint Director IB, Srinagar/ Jammu

26. Vice Admiral, AOC, Air Force Station, Old Airfield, Srinagar.

27. Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal

28. Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag

29. Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora.

30. Sr. Supdt. of Police, Anantnag/ Ganderbal/Bandipora

31. Sr. Superintendent of Police, Police Control Room, Srinagar

32. Chief Executive Officer, Pahalgam Development Authority.

33. Commandant, High Altitude Warfare School, Gulmarg.

34. All Camp Directors/ Yatra Officers.

35. State Informatics Officer, NIC, Srinagar with the request to upload the SoP on the website.

36. G.O. file

37. Stock file.