

Governor reviews Yatra functioning

Light snow fall at Holy Cave Shrine yesterday

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27 - Mr. N. N. Vohra, Governor, who is Chairman of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, reviewed the first two days of Yatra movement to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnathji at a high level meeting held at Raj Bhavan here today. Mr. Navin K. Choudhary, Chief Executive Officer, SASB and Mr. Preet Pal Singh, Additional CEO, SASB, and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

Consequent to extensive discussions in the meeting, the Governor asked Mr. Navin K. Choudhary, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, to forthwith proceed to the Baltal Base Camp, and from there to the Nunwan Base Camp, to particularly ensure that all those crossing the Control Gates were duly registered pilgrims and to also check the entire arrangements and facilities set up for the Yatris. Keeping in view the continuing adverse weather conditions the Governor directed the CEO to ensure that the Camp Directors and their officers continuously monitored the Yatra movement.

The CEO reported that the movement of Yatris had to be stopped on several occasions, for varying periods, in view of the heavy rains. However, the pilgrimage has moved satisfactorily, along both the routes and over 31,000 Yatris had paid their obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnathji during the first two days of this year's Yatra.

It was decided that the Check Points/Control Gates at all the Camps shall be further strengthened to ensure against the Yatris venturing on the tracks at any time after the pre-fixed movement schedules to prevent undue risk or injury. Side by side, a very close watch is being kept on the emerging weather pattern to see that movements are stopped or restricted in the event of

heavy rains. In this context, it was noted that there was a light snow fall at the Shrine yesterday. The Governor directed all the Agencies involved in the overall management and conduct of the pilgrimage to ensure very close coordination in the interest of the safety and security of the Yatris, particularly in regard to the forward movement of the Yatris to the Base Camps and onwards to the Holy Shrine.

Meanwhile, Mr. Preet Pal Singh, Additional CEO of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, has once again appealed to the intending Yatris to embark on the pilgrimage only after obtaining a valid Yatra Permit. He also reiterated the Board's appeal to the Yatris not to reach the Base Camps without registration to ensure against avoidable inconvenience on not being able to cross the Control-cum-Security Gates at Baltal and Nunwan Base Camps without the Registration Slips in their hands. He further appealed to the Yatris to reach the Base Camps only on the date and for the route for which they have registered themselves. This would ensure against any avoidable difficulties.

The Additional CEO also reminded the Yatris that the Compulsory Health Certificate has to be produced by all those Yatris who have registered themselves on-line or are traveling by helicopter. The Yatris traveling by the helicopter services, their heli tickets will be considered as registration but they would not be allowed to board if they do not produce the required Health Certificate, duly signed and stamped by a registered Medical Practitioner.

The Additional CEO further said that the Board has also issued a detailed Advisory of Do's and Don'ts for the Yatris visiting the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnathji. The Yatris need to strictly adhere to these Do's and Don'ts as they have to undertake an arduous trek through high mountain ranges under adverse weather conditions.

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