

Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2012

Continuous bad weather hampering Yatra arrangements

SRINAGAR, MAY 22 - Unusual bad weather for last more than a week is proving to be a major problem for track clearance works and other Yatra arrangements. This was disclosed in a meeting held at Raj Bhavan under the Chairmanship of His Excellency the Governor, Shri N. N. Vohra, who is also the Chairman of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board. Among others, the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary to Governor and Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Mr. Navin K. Choudhary, Addl. CEO, Mr. P. P. Singh, General Manager (Works) Mr. K. G. Bamba and other senior engineering staff of the SASB and District Administration.

Giving further details, the CEO said “the weather this year is following a very highly unusual pattern. After the record snow fall during the winter, it was expected that weather would clear allowing the work to commence to clear the Yatra tracks and making other necessary arrangements at the Base Camps well in time for the Yatra. Instead, we are witnessing continuous rainfall in the Pahalgam and Baltal base camp areas and incessant snow fall in the higher reaches of Shri Amarnathji Yatra route. Even yesterday, there was snow fall not only on the entire Yatra route but very unexpectedly, some two to three inches snow came down even at Baltal Base Camp and upto Sonamarg.”

While taking note of the weather situation and resulting constraint in making headway for proper Yatra arrangements, the Governor directed CEO and all engineering personnel to prepare contingency plan for additional manpower to be deployed immediately to ensure that the track are cleared and other arrangements put in place for the Yatra to start on the announced date. The Governor also directed CEO to supervise personally the snows clearance works and all other activities on the ground in coming days.

It was also decided that the Governor and CEO, SASB will make another aerial reconnaissance of both the Yatra routes on 2nd June and make attempt to land at Panjtarni and Holy Cave weather permitting. Pertinent to mention here that the aerial survey of Pahalgam-Chandanwari-Pissutop-Sheshnag-Panjtarni-Holy Cave route could not be done on 19th May as Helicopter carrying the Governor and CEO was not able to proceed further than Chandanwari due to extremely bad weather condition. However, the Governor and CEO had conducted aerial survey of Baltal-Domel-Sangam-Holy Cave-Panjtarni access on 16th May and it was observed that the entire area is still buried under deep snow.

Later, Mr. Choudhary had a meeting with all engineers and contractors involved in clearing of tracks and making other Yatra arrangements and discussed threadbare the men and machinery required to clear the tracks and make all

arrangements in shortest possible time, once weather allow the work to proceed. He emphasized the need to put in hard work by all staff, engineers and contractors to meet this challenge and ensure that arrangements are put in place at the earliest.

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