

Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2012

Governor visits Amarnath Yatra Base Camps; directs for putting in place all arrangements on war footing well before the Yatra commencement on 25th June

SRINAGAR, JUNE 11 – Mr. N. N. Vohra, Governor, today directed the engineer wing of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, the District and Divisional Heads of all concerned Government Departments and other involved agencies to work in double shifts for making good the time lost due to continuous bad weather and ensuring track clearance and positioning of all required Yatra-related arrangements well before the commence of this year's Shri Amarnathji Yatra on both Chandanwari and Baltal routes from 25th June.

The Governor said this while reviewing the Yatra arrangements at a high level meeting held under his chairmanship at Nunwan Base Camp today.

Mr. A. H. Samoon, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Mr. Navin K. Choudhary, Principal Secretary to the Governor and Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Shah, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Mr. Vijay Kumar, DIG, Anantnag, Mr. R. K. Jalla, SSP, Anantnag, Mr. Preet Pal Singh, Additional CEO of the Shrine Board, Mr. Mir Altaf Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer, Pahalgam Development Authority, Mr. Amit Sharma, Camp Director, Nunwan Base Camp, Mr. K.G. Bamba, GM (Works) SASB; and other Divisional and District officers were present on the occasion.

The Governor stressed that water and power supply, availability of rations, LPG, kerosene, medical facilities, telecommunication, firewood and all other essentials must be ensured at all the enroute Yatra Camps and in the Holy Cave area by 15th of June, 2012 so that immediately thereafter Langars and other service providers start moving to their respective destinations.

The Governor took an extensive review of all the required Yatra arrangements and stressed that the work on the improvement and blacktopping of the remaining portion of the Pahalgam-Chandanwari road must be completed on immediate basis and the vulnerable stretches of Khanabal-Pahalgam road be got improved in view of the heavy rush of traffic due to peak tourist season and the forthcoming Yatra.

Referring to the medicare services at the Base Camps and Camps enroute, the Governor said that portable oxygen cylinders in sufficient numbers should be available, with adequate provision for replenishing the stocks, to effectively meet the requirements of these cylinders.

The meeting was informed that work on making both the Yatra tracks is underway on war footing despite the adverse weather conditions.

During this meeting, all the Yatra related arrangements made by various Departments including the PHE, PDD, CAPD, Health, Tourism, Labour,

Information, Animal Husbandry, BSNL, Police Telecommunication, etc. were discussed in detail.

The Governor inspected the ongoing work for positioning the various arrangements at the Nunwan Base Camp. The water and power supply has been fully restored and paths, drains, huts, toilets and baths have been repaired. The work on the restoration of Sewage Treatment Plant is going on speedily. The Governor stressed that the sanitation and cleanliness at all Camps location and on the tracks must be given highest priority and environment and ecology of the Yatra area protected.

Other arrangements that were discussed included deployment of Mountain Rescue Teams of the State Police at identified locations on the Yatra route, setting up of the Joint Control Rooms and Disaster Management Centres and their effective coordination with Meteorological Department; deployment of well equipped Fire Fighting Force units; public address system; provision of adequate number of X-Ray Baggage Scanning units; installation of CCTV cameras at important locations in the Yatra area.

The Divisional Commissioner assured the Governor that all the arrangements will be in place well before the commencement of the Yatra and the Deputy Commissioner and SSP, Anantnag shall be visiting all the Camp locations and the Holy Cave area in the next two days to review the status of arrangements on ground to give a further push in this regard.

Earlier the Governor, accompanied by the Divisional Commissioner, CEO, Deputy Commissioner and other officers, visited Chandanwari and reviewed the arrangements. While reviewing the work on the construction of Entry Gate and shelters at Chandanwari, the Governor was informed that this work will be completed by 20th June.

The CEO of the Shrine Board talking with the media dispelled any concern regarding the commencement of the Yatra date and emphatically asserted that the Yatra will commence from both Baltal as well as Pahalgam route from 25th June as announced earlier. He said "No doubt the weather conditions have put tremendous hindrances in clearance of track and putting in required infrastructure, all necessary urgent steps are being taken to overcome the difficulties".

Meanwhile, a team of Camp Directors led by Mr. Rajnish Kumar who traveled to inspect the Baltal-Holy Cave track reported on phone that there advance was delayed by a fresh snowfall in the Brarimarg-Shrine sector.

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