

## Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2012

### Governor reviews Yatra arrangements

#### *Directs extended working hours for making up for lost time*

SRINAGAR, JUNE 8 – Mr. N. N. Vohra, Governor and Chairman, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, reviewed the progress on the clearance of tracks of snows and positioning of the various required arrangements on ground for the forthcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra, at the Base Camps and Camps enroute. This special review meeting was convened after receipt of reports from Shrine Board and District Administration officers about the difficulties being faced due to intermittent rains and continuous bad weather encountered in the last few days in the entire Yatra area.

The meeting in which Mr. Navin K. Choudhary, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Preet Pal Singh, Additional CEO, Mr. K. G. Bamba, General Manager (Works) and other concerned Board officers participated, expressed serious concern over the pace of work on the ground because of the repeated and prolonged interruptions due to frequent spells of heavy rains and fresh snows in the Yatra area.

The CEO informed about the telegram received from the Pahalgam Development Authority which intimated that on the Chandanwari-Mahagunas Top- Panjtarni axis, there is snow accumulation of 18 feet at the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> kilometer of the track. While work is underway for the clearance of track, it has been cautioned that the complete removal of snow from the track in one go shall, at this stage, lead to formation of steep walls of snow which could prove dangerous in case of wind storm or snow avalanches. Consequently, the snow clearance work is proceeding in stages, step by step. The CEO further informed that the fresh snow falls on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June have adversely affected the on-going work in the Yatra area.

The meeting also took note of the Meteorological Department report which forecasts rains and thunder showers in the Yatra area during 9<sup>th</sup> June to 13<sup>th</sup> June.

Recognizing the prevailing weather and the forecasts for the coming days, the Governor directed the CEO to take urgent necessary steps to hasten the work progress by extending the working shifts, to ensure that track clearance and other Yatra-related arrangements targets are achieved by the envisaged dates, well before the commencement of the forthcoming Yatra on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.

As per understandings arrived at with the Administration, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir would be reviewing the progress of all Yatra related work, along both routes, early next week. The Governor would also be visiting Baltal and Nunwan Base Camps during 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.

.....