

Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2019

27 Rescue Teams (MRTs/ ARTs) to be deployed

Srinagar, June 11: On the directions of Governor Satya Pal Malik, Shri Umang Narula Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, took a meeting today to review the arrangements to be made for providing rescue facilities in case of any emergent situation during the forthcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2019.

Shri Narula, informed Governor that a total of 27 Rescue Teams will be deployed during the forthcoming Yatra. These teams would be drawn from the personnel of J&K Armed Police, SDRF and the NDRF and equipped with all rescue equipment including Oxygen Cylinders. 11 Mountain Rescue Teams (02 more than last year) from the J&K Armed Police will be deployed to help women and sick Yatris in negotiating difficult stretches on the Yatra routes.

It was informed in the meeting that a total of 12 Avalanche Rescue Teams viz 11 teams of the State Disaster Response Force and 01 team of CRPF would be deployed along both the routes. Of these, 07 teams would be deployed along the Pahalgam route at Chandanwari, Pissu Top, Zojibal-Nagakoti; Sheshnag, M.G.Top, Panjtarni, Holy Cave and 05 teams along the Baltal route at Baltal, Domel, Railpatri, Brarimarg and Sangam Top. Besides, 4 Search and Rescue teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are also being deployed at Pahalgam, Chandanwari, Sheshnag, Panjtarni and Baltal. The rescue teams equipped with necessary paraphernalia shall be deployed at critical stretches, particularly between Railpatri and Brarimarg, forewarning Yatris about shooting stones and landslides. It was decided that effective strength of the rescue teams would be increased from 10 to 15 and SSPs of Ganderbal and Anantnag districts shall fix RD wise jurisdiction of rescue teams. It was also decided to introduce Common Access Protocol (CAP) in the Yatra area, linked with Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) at Sonamarg and Chandanwari to enable all Yatris and others present in that grid to receive SMSs in case of emergent situations on any network. This would be in addition to Priority Call Routing (PCR) portal which will help to prioritize the calls of officers associated with Disaster Management, even if there is congestion in the communication network.

Shri Narula expressed on behalf of Governor and Chairman of the SASB high appreciation of the valuable contribution made by the Rescue Teams in

saving many precious lives during the previous Yatras by providing timely assistance and effecting quick evacuation of pilgrims in distress.

The meeting was attended by Shri V.K.Birdi, Deputy Inspector General of Police, CKR; Shri Shailendra P. Singh, Deputy Inspector General, CRPF; Shri B.K.Jha, Deputy Inspector General, BSF; Shri Anup Kumar Soni, Additional Chief Executive Officer, SASB; Shri Aamir Ali, Director, Disaster Management, J&K; Col Kulbir Singh, Deputy CDR, HQ, 3SECT RR; Col R R Laddha, CO 8 Kumaon; Col Sanjiv, Deputy CDR, HQ 1 Sector RR.. Shri Khalid Jehangir, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag; Shri Altaf Ahmed Khan, SSP Anantnag; Shri Hashmat Ali, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal and Shri Khalil Ahmed Paswal, SSP Ganderbal attended the meeting through video conferencing.