



Office of the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir

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(Development Section)

Subject:- Minutes of the meeting regarding opening of Sonamarg Tourist Destination during winters.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, took a meeting with regard to subject matter on 20/10/2021 at 3.00 Pm, in JKTDC Hut at Sonamarg.

Following Officers participated in the meeting:

1. Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal
2. Managing Director, JKTDC Srinagar
3. Director, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Kashmir.
4. Director, Health Services Kashmir.
5. Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority
6. Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Kashmir along with concerned SE
7. Chief Engineer, (Distribution), KPDCL, Kashmir.
8. Chief Engineer, MED, Kashmir.
9. Chief Engineer, Beacon Kashmir.
10. Conservator of Forests, Srinagar along with DFO Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal
11. Deputy Director Tourism, Kashmir
12. General Manager, BSNL, Kashmir.
13. Executive Director (P), NHIDCL RO-Srinagar.
14. Project Director, Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Limited.
15. Project Director, APCO Infrastructure Ltd.
16. Business Head, JIO Telecommunication Services.
17. Chief Area Manager, Airtel Services, Srinagar.

Non Officials

1. President Hoteliers Association Sonamarg
2. President Beopar Mandal Association Sonamarg
3. President Snow-Bikers Association.
4. President Sledge Association.
5. President Pony Association.
6. President Taxi Association.

At the outset, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir welcomed all the participants and spell out the importance of tourist destination with the direction to emphasize upon the promotion of Sonamarg as winter tourist destination on the tourism map. Earlier, Sonamarg Tourist Destination remained closed during the winter due to heavy snowfall and avalanches in Gagangeer area .With commissioning of Z-Morh Tunnel, the Sonamarg Tourist Destination

shall remain open for the first time in winter also. The Government is committed to promote Sonamarg as all weather and preferred winter tourist destination.

After threadbare discussion and deliberations following instructions were passed on:


S. No	Issue	Directions	Action by
1.	<p>Snow Clearance at the destination Sonamarg:</p> <p>Executive Director, NHIDCL (Projects) briefed about the traffic action plan through Z-Morh tunnel and informed that the tunnel shall remain open for one way traffic movement during winters from 11.00 am to 4.00 Pm for light vehicles when road is closed,</p>	<p>Divisional Commissioner, directed the BRO to ensure that sufficient machinery and manpower is being deployed for clearing of snow from Gagangeer to Sonamarg including car parking areas and directed for submitting an action plan in this regard to the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir by or before 25th October 2021</p> <p>Sonamarg Development Authority was directed to request Gulmarg Development Authority to explore the possibility to spare one no. snow clearance machine along with one no. snow beater for emergency uses till the same machines are procured by SDA.</p> <p>Mechanical Engineer Department was directed to make necessary arrangements for providing of manpower in view of exigencies created.</p>	BECON/ Mechanical Engineering department/S DA
2	<p>Water supply at Sonamarg:</p> <p>Officers of Jal Shakti Department stated that water supply scheme is already under execution at the Thajwass area under which water pipes are being laid underground and the water can be supplied to the establishments during the winters as well; but the work on the project was stopped by the Forest Department as and when the clearance from the forest department is</p>	<p>Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir directed the Forest Department to issue clearance at an earliest so that work on the project is resumed and get completed before the winters.</p> <p>Jal Shakti Department shall complete the networking of pipes in non-forest area within a period of 10 days.</p> <p>Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir also directed the Jal Shakti Department for keeping sufficient water tankers available and ensuring necessary repairing works to the existing pipe lines to make them functional during winters also to suffice water requirements.</p> <p>In addition to above, Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) shall</p>	Forest Deptt/ KPDCL/ Jal Shakti/ Project Director, MEIL

	received the work on the project is resumed.	dig two no. of bore wells in addition to existing bore wells for Jal Shakti department, which will suffice the water requirements during the winters.	
3.	Electricity supply to various establishments at Sonamarg : Regarding supply of electricity during winters at Sonamarg, Chief Engineering, KPDCL (Distribution) said that to provide electricity to the establishments at Sonamarg during the winters, underground cabling is required or electric lines are needed to be laid through tunnel tubes and a detailed proposal is formulated at higher level by the department	Divisional Commissioner Kashmir directed Chief Engineer, KPDCL (Distribution) to explore the possibility of providing electricity to Sonamarg during the forthcoming winter without interruption and keep gens sets dumped at Sonamarg that can be used during emergency situations. KPDCL shall conduct a survey immediately to ascertain the requirement of gen sets during forthcoming winter and arrange the same on emergent basis	Chief Engineer,& Executive Engineer, KPDCL (Distribution)
4.	Availability of Health facilities in PHC Sonamarg. Officers of the Health department stated that the department is committed to provide health facilities at PHC Sonamarg during the winters as well if the road is thrown open during the forthcoming winter.	Director Health Services, Kashmir was asked to ensure all health facilities at PHC Sonamarg are kept available including sufficient medical and Paramedical staff, medicine and ambulance service during the winters as well.	Director Health Services Department/ CMO,Gbl.
5.	Promotion & Publicity as winter Tourist Destination Hoteliers association Sonamarg expressed concern over non-promotion/publicity of tourist destination Sonamarg as winter tourist destination as the destination remains closed during the winters	The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, directed that it is imperative to have proper plan to promote Sonamarg as winter tourist destination at all levels as Sonamarg is going to open for the first time in winter and as a part of it, it was desired that the Tourism Department and Sonamarg Development Authority to devise a proper mechanism for its wide publicity as winter tourist destination and has desired to finalize holistic plan within this month regarding publicity	Director Tourism Deptt.Kmr/ CEO,SDA.

		and activities to be carried during forthcoming winters like Snow Festival, winter Snow games and other activities on the same pattern as in other winter tourist destinations like Gulmarg & Pahalgam to attract maximum tourists to visit tourist destination Sonamarg	
6.	Up-gradation of Hotels/huts/Govt. Accommodations etc. and availability of Fire tenders, Fire wood, ATM, car parking etc. Stake holders of Sonamarg briefed in the meeting about the importance of up-gradation of their structures/hotels etc to cope up with the winters.	Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, urged hoteliers/shopkeepers of Sonamarg to upgrade their infrastructure as per the weather conditions in the area so that the tourists visiting Sonamarg during winters are provided better facilities and shall not face any inconvenience. Forest department directed to make survey for requirement of firewood and arrange sufficient quantity of fire wood and store on emergent basis which will suffice the requirements during the winters.	Forest Department/ All stakeholders of Sonamarg

At the end Divisional commissioner, Kashmir directed all the line departments to ensure that all the facilities and arrangements shall be put in place by or before the end of this month viz, October 2021.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the chair.


 Ashiq Hussain Malik
 Deputy Director (E&S)
 Dated:29.10.2021

Divcom/Dev/42/2021-I 3822-39

Copy for information and necessary action to the:

1. All above concerned.
2. DIO, Srinagar with the request to upload the minutes on official website of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.