

All stranded Indian Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims rescued



A total of 1430 Indian Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims went missing on Monday in Nepal due to bad weather conditions, after which, the Indian Embassy in Nepal launched a search and rescue mission. In the latest update, all 1,430 stranded Indian pilgrims have been rescued and evacuated safely from Nepal today.

Each year, thousands of pilgrims visit Nepal for the Kailash Mansarovar yatra in mountainous regions of Himalayas in Nepal. However, this year the weather proved to be more hostile, giving tough times to the pilgrims. On Monday, the Indian Embassy in had launched the rescue operation after more than 1,500 pilgrims were stranded due to extreme weather conditions in Hilsa while returning from the pilgrimage. After being trapped for almost six days in inclement weather conditions, 1225 pilgrims were airlifted from Hilsa and Simikot to Nepalgunj and Surkhet in Nepal - the two towns with better health care and infrastructure facilities close to the Indian border.

After a week of rescue operations, the last batch of 160 stranded Indian pilgrims were rescued and airlifted from Nepal's mountainous regions - bringing back all 1500 pilgrims safely. The officials said that none of the over 1,200 stranded pilgrims were facing shortage of food, medicine and shelter. Majority of the pilgrims were rescued and airlifted to the safer places as soon as possible, even when the weather was highly unfavourable to carry out the rescue mission.

For pilgrims airlifted and landed in Surkhet, the embassy also arranged bus facility to move them to Nepalgunj for better medical facility and shelter provisions. Although all 1,430 stranded Indian pilgrims have been rescued and evacuated safely from Nepal, the Indian Embassy continues to monitor the situation in Nepalganj-Simikot-Hilsa sector to make sure no pilgrim is left behind in the mountainous regions of Himalayas in Nepal; which still continuous withstanding harsh weather conditions.