

जय माता दी



**Administrative Report
2023-24**



SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD



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1. Introduction

The Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, situated in the Trikuta Hills, near Katra, the base town for the pilgrimage, in Reasi District of Jammu and Kashmir, is one of the most revered Shrines and holiest pilgrimages, where millions of devotees from within the country and across the globe come to pay their obeisance.

2. Background

Prior to the formation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, the pilgrimage to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine was managed by the Dharmarth Trust and 'Baridars'. Though the number of pilgrims to the Shrine and accordingly the magnitude of donations were progressively increasing but there was hardly any corresponding perceptible improvement in infrastructure or other facilities for the visiting yatris. There were no adequate arrangements of water or power supply and the track was very narrow and unpaved making it difficult for the pilgrims to walk. This called for major initiatives to overhaul administration and management of the Shrine alongwith plans for infrastructural development and pilgrim-centric facilities as well as logistical arrangements to meet the immediate and long term goals of catering to progressively rising number of pilgrims.

3. Scenario Post-establishment of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Since the establishment of the Shrine Board in 1986, faster pace pilgrim-oriented development has all along remained top most priority of the Board. The entire stretch of the holy pilgrimage from Katra to Bhawan has witnessed considerable all round development. This has resulted in completely transforming the infrastructural facilities and other logistics for the pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. The Shrine Board mandated to provide better management, administration and governance of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and its endowments has put in enormous human and material resources in developing the best and the most modern



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facilities so that the pilgrimage to this world renowned Shrine becomes a memorable and pleasant experience for the yatris, alongwith seeking spiritual bliss.

In vigorous pursuit of these objectives, the Shrine Board has completed a host of infrastructure development projects and put on ground arrangements for meeting the present and the futuristic requirements of the pilgrimage which have brought laudable result. The Shrine area has witnessed all round improvement in pilgrim facilities like construction of pedestrian-friendly and comfortable tracks by laying tiles made of skid free material, stair cases, excellently maintained hygienic toilets, catering units, cloak rooms, blanket stores, accommodation units, round the clock water and power supply, landscaping, healthcare arrangements and the other best possible pilgrim facilities in this challenging terrain. A large number of hi-tech facilities have been since put in place while many more technology driven facilities including installation of Video Walls at various locations, augmentation of accommodation facilities in the shape of construction of Durga Bhawan and phased manner implementation of Master Plan of Bhawan and the Extended Shrine Area and other ongoing, upcoming and visualised infrastructural development projects for certain with further revolutionise the logistics for the yatris. The continuing initiatives of the Shrine Board besides largely facilitating the devotees are also significantly promoting pilgrim tourism in J&K and contributing meaningfully towards the growth of economic activities and creation of employment avenues.

With these efforts and blessings of the Mother Goddess, the Shrine is today regarded as one of the best managed Shrine in the country for which the Board has been receiving many awards consecutively year after year.



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4. Mandate of the Shrine Board

Section 18 of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act of 1988 assigns the following duties to the Board:

1. To arrange for the proper performance of worship at the Shrine.
2. To provide facilities for the proper performance of worship by the pilgrims.
3. To make arrangements for the safe custody of the funds, valuable security and jewellery and for the preservation of the Shrine Fund.
4. To undertake for the benefit of worshippers and pilgrims:
 - a) The construction of buildings for their accommodation;
 - b) The construction of sanitary work; and
 - c) The improvement of means of communication.
5. To undertake the developmental activities concerning the area of the Shrine and its surroundings.
6. To make suitable arrangements for the imparting of religious instructions and general education.
7. To make provision of medical relief for worshippers and pilgrims.
8. To make provision for the payments of suitable emoluments to the salaried staff.
9. To do all such things as may be incidental and conducive to the efficient management, maintenance and administration of the Shrine and the Shrine Fund and the convenience of the pilgrims.



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5. Constitution of the Board as on 31-03-2024

CHAIRMAN: Shri Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT.

MEMBERS:

- Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj
- Shri Baleshwar Rai, IAS (Retd.)
- Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.)
- Shri Kul Bhushan Ahuja
- Dr. Neelam Sareen
- Shri K. K. Sharma.
- Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma Retd. Judge
- Shri Raghu K. Mehta

Profile of Hon'ble Board Members

Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj:

Swami Vishveshvaranand is the 11th President of Suratgiri Bangla, Haridwar & President of Sanyas Ashram Vile Parle Mumbai. At the age of 18 years Swami Ji first came to Sanyas Ashram as Brahmachari. On 6th May 1981 Swami Ji took Diskha of Sanyas. Swami Ji did his Vedantacharya from Sampurnanand Sanskrit University Varanasi & M.A. from Mumbai University. On 10th May 1995 his Guru Ji Brahmalin Maharnandleshwar Shri Swami Brahmanand Giri Ji Maharaj handed over the responsibilities of Ashram and honored him with the title of Mahamandleshwar. Swami Ji is deeply involved in organizing & spreading awareness about Vaidik Religion through Spiritual lectures and cultural programmes in India & abroad. Swami Ji is also involved in working along with many others Religious and Social organizations for human welfare.



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Shri Baleshwar Rai IAS (Retd.):

Shri Baleshwar Rai is a 1970-batch AGMUT cadre IAS Officer, who retired as Secretary in the Government of India. He has held many important positions in his tenure such as Secretary, public grievances and coordination, Additional Secretary in Union Labour Ministry, the Chief Secretary of Goa, Advisor to the Governor in Chandigarh, Joint Secretary in the Union Power Ministry, the Chairman of Delhi Jal Board and NDMC. He has held several important positions after retirement like Chairman of Delhi Public Grievances Commission, Chairman of the Governing Body of UPRAS Vidyalaya, Chairman of CSRL, Chairman of Governing Body of Kirori Mal College. He is currently Board member of the Chattarpur temple at Delhi.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.):

Dr. Ashok Bhan is a retired IPS Officer (J&K-1976). He has held important positions in Jammu and Kashmir Government including that of the Commissioner of Vigilance, Director General of Police (Intelligence) and Director General of Police (Prisons). After his retirement, he served as a Member of the National Security Advisory Board and his achievements were significant and remarkable. He is Patron, J&K Regional Branch, Indian Institute of Public Administration; Member University Court, Central University of Jammu and Distinguished Fellow, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi.

Shri Kul Bhushan Ahuja:

Shri Kul Bhushan Ahuja known for his distinguished service of Hindu religion and Culture. He is social worker and has contributed significantly for the upliftment of Hindu religion. He is Secretary cum Manager of Jhandewala Mandir, New Delhi and his contribution is commendable. He is also the President of Matri Chhaya, New Delhi besides being associated with many other Hindu organizations.



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Dr. Neelam Sareen:

Dr. Neelam Sareen has done her doctorate in Dogri language. She has contributed significantly in terms of upliftment of Dogri language. She focused on publications and holding workshops in Dogri languages for the helped in revival of Dogri language. She has also rendered her distinguished services in woman Service in the Hindu religion and social work. She is even a renowned announcer in Radio Kashmir, Jammu.

Shri K. K. Sharma:

Shri K.K. Sharma is the Managing Director of AIMIL Pharmaceuticals (India). Ltd. (Ayurveda based Pharmaceuticals Company). With his spiritual energy and intellectual power, he raised his company from a meagre turnover of Rs. 1 Crore in 1985 to over Rs. 300 Crores plus turnover in 2016-2017. He has been associated with Shrine Board since long and his contribution has remained significant. He had been bestowed with two National Awards for "Outstanding Entrepreneurship" and "For Manufacturing of Herbal Preparations of Outstanding Quality" in 1998 by then Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma Retd. Judge:

Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma who started his career as Munsiff in 1987, has served with distinction in various important courts in the State, including Sub-Registrar (Munsiff) Jammu and Chief Judicial Magistrate (Jammu). He was also held various key and important positions and administrative Posts including Director J&K State Judicial Academy, Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir, and Registrar General, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir. He is presently working as President of Management Committee of Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu; as Chairman, Shri Gandhi Sewa Sadan and as a trustee of Dashnami Akhara Trust, Srinagar.

Shri Raghu K. Mehta:

Shri Raghu K. Mehta is an Advocate in J&K High court with professional experience of more than 32 years. He has served in the capacity of Additional Central government counsel in J&K High court for over 5 years and remained as Additional advocate general for J&K govt. in J&K High court at Jammu in 2016- 2017. At present,



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he is senior central government counsel and Litigation-in-charge for Central Administrative Tribunal, Jammu bench, Jammu. He has remained as President of Akhil Bhartiya Adhivakta Parishad, Jammu, J&K, for 10 years and currently serving as Patron for the above mentioned organization



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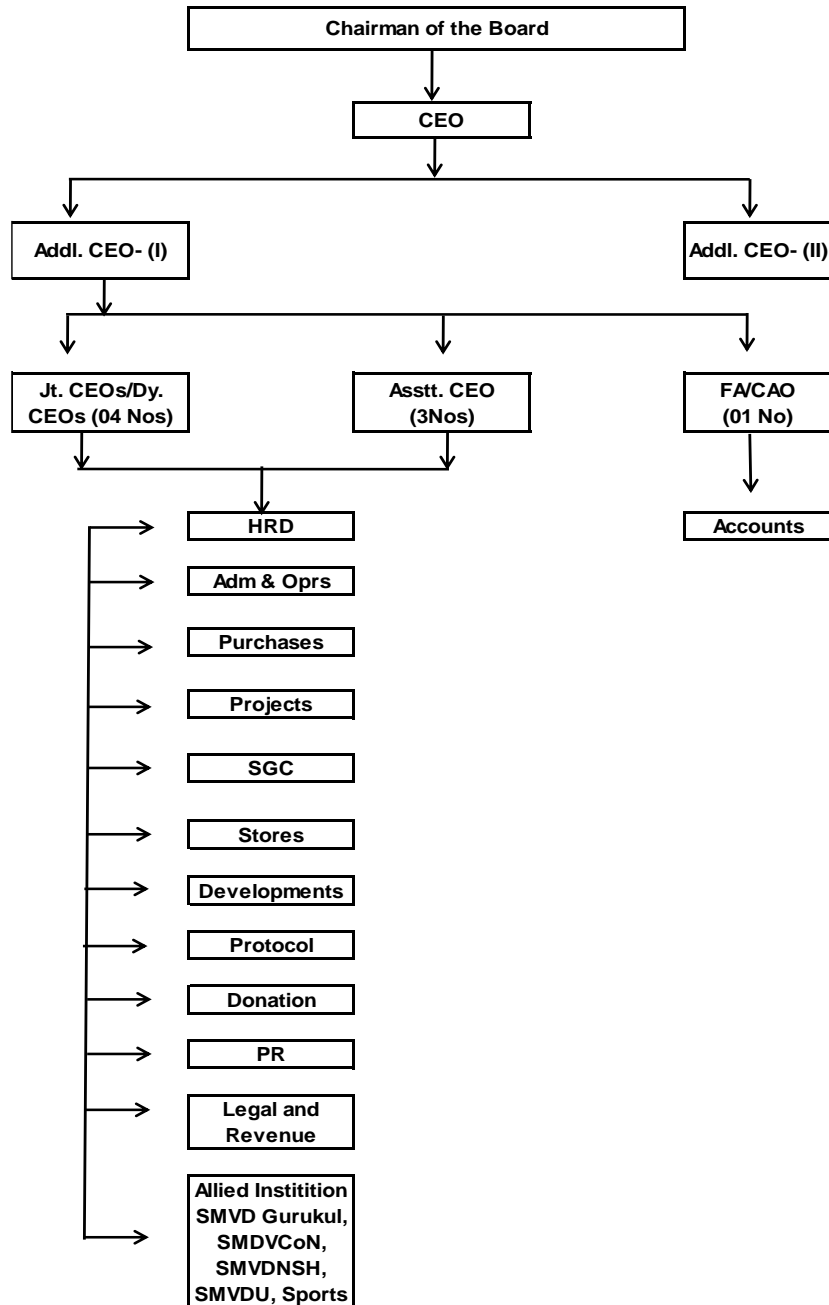
Officers of the Board as on 31-03-2024

- Shri Anshul Garg, IAS, Chief Executive Officer
(7 May 2022 -).
- Shri Navneet Singh, IFS, Additional Chief Executive Officer
(11 February 2022 - 05 February 2024)
- Shri Alok Kumar Maurya, IFS, Additional Chief Executive Officer
(05 February 2024 -)
- Dr. Jagdish Chander, JKAS, Joint. Chief Executive Officer
(22 February 2019 – 13 November 2023).
- Dr. Sunil Sharma, JKAS, Joint. Chief Executive Officer
(16 January 2020- 03 February 2024).
- Shri Satish Kumar, JKAS, Joint. Chief Executive Officer
(05 February 2024 -).
- Shri Vishavjeet Singh, JKAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer
(15 April 2020 -).
- Shri Chander Parkash, JKAS, Joint Chief Executive Officer
(17 February 2022-).
- Shri Mahesh Sharma, FA/Chief Accounts Officer
(11 February 2022 -).
- Shri Ajay Salaan, JKAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer
(11 August 2022 –
- Shri Vipin Bhagat, JKAS, Asstt. Chief Executive Officer
(30 November 2022 -)



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ORGANISATIONAL SETUP



* Field units are headed by Senior Managers/ Managers/ other officers who report to the respective Dy. CEOs.



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6. Yatra during the period

6.1 Yatra Statistics

During the calendar year 2023, a total of 95,22,225 pilgrims visited the Shrine as against 91,24,970 yatris who paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum in 2022.

Yatra over the years

S. No.	Year	No. of Pilgrims
1	1986	13,95,832
2	1987	18,57,935
3	1988	19,92,605
4	1989	23,12,011
5	1990	21,69,093
6	1991	31,15,447
7	1992	35,16,267
8	1993	33,68,665
9	1994	37,04,944
10	1995	40,11,627
11	1996	43,35,432
12	1997	44,34,233
13	1998	46,22,297
14	1999	46,70,454
15	2000	52,17,715
16	2001	50,56,919
17	2002	44,32,178
18	2003	54,00,296
19	2004	61,09,895
20	2005	62,51,998
21	2006	69,50,573
22	2007	74,17,619
23	2008	67,92,223
24	2009	82,34,896



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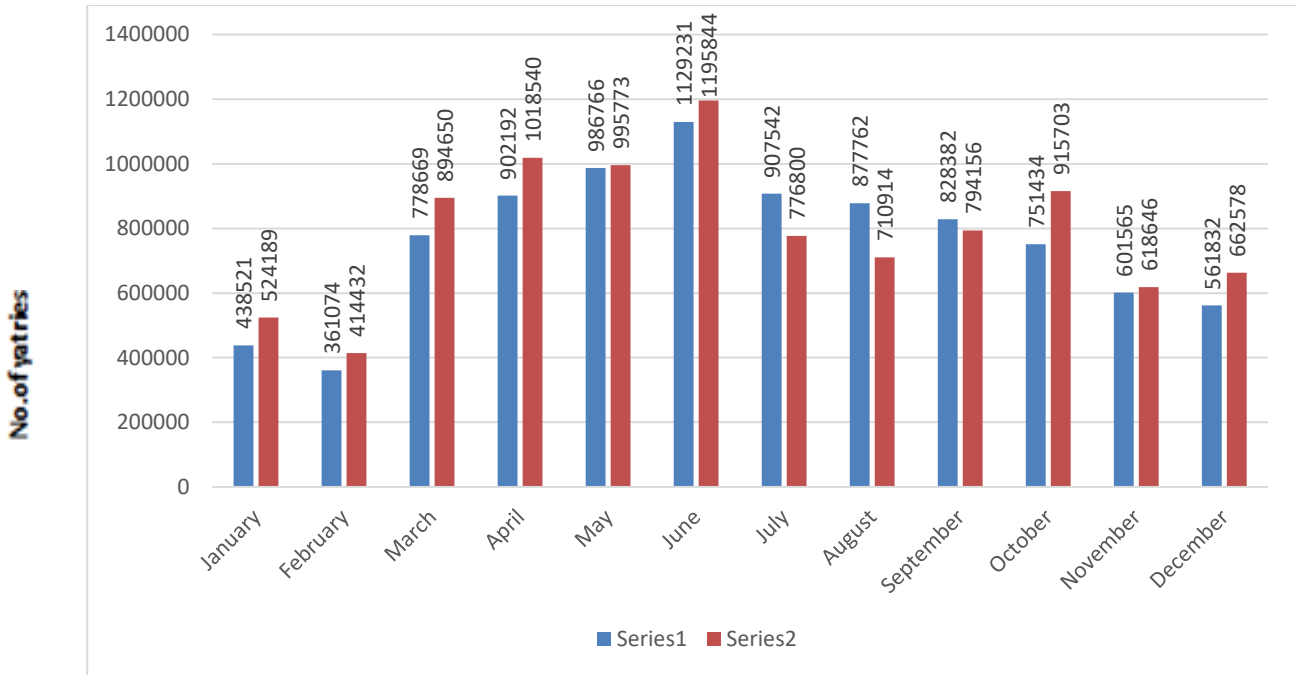
25	2010	87,49,326
26	2011	1,01,15,647
27	2012	1,04,95,269
28	2013	93,23,647
29	2014	78,03,193
30	2015	77,76,604
31	2016	77,23,721
32	2017	81,78,318
33	2018	85,86,541
34	2019	79,40,064
35	2020	17,20,357
36	2021	55,88,174
37	2022	91,24,970
38	2023	95,22,225

Month Wise Yatra comparison 2022 v/s 2023

Month	2022 No. of Yatris	2023 No. of Yatris
January	4,38,521	5,24,189
February	3,61,074	4,14,432
March	7,78,669	8,94,650
April	9,02,192	10,18,540
May	9,86,766	9,95,773
June	11,29,231	11,95,844
July	9,07,542	7,76,800
August	8,77,762	7,10,914
September	8,28,382	7,94,156
October	7,51,434	9,15,703
November	6,01,565	6,18,646
December	5,61,832	6,62,578
Total	91,24,970	95,22,225



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The largest number of pilgrims who visited the Shrine was during June 2023. The months of March to November were the peak season of the pilgrimage while the lean period was during January, February and November.

6.2 Modes of Travel by Yatris

6.2.1 Helicopter Services

The one-way passenger fare for heli-travel between Katra and Sanjichhat was Rs. 2100/- per passenger during 2023-24. These rates were fixed after a transparent bidding process. The successful bidders i.e. M/s Global Vectra Helicorp Ltd. and M/s Himalayan Heli Services Pvt. Ltd. are operating the heli-services. Heli bookings can be made on-line four months in advance and are also available on current ticket counters where preference is generally given to senior citizens and specially-abled pilgrims. A total of 4,90,069 yatris availed this service during 2023-24.



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Helipad Sanjichhat

6.2.2 Battery Car Services

Pollution free Battery Car service between Adhkuwari and Bhawan on Himkoti Marg is available with preference to senior citizens and specially-abled pilgrims. The service is available between 7.30 a.m. and 10.30 p.m., which varies due to yatra numbers. During 2023-24, the charges per passenger for 30-minute journey from Adhkuwari to Bhawan and from Bhawan to Adhkuwari were Rs. 356/- and Rs. 236/- (inclusive of taxes), respectively. The booking for Battery Car service is available through online mode and current counters at Adhkuwari and Manokamana Bhawan. A total of 7,06,237 pilgrims availed this facility in the year 2023-24.



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Battery Car

6.2.3 Passenger Ropeway

The Passenger Ropeway has been constructed with a view to facilitate the pilgrims who are required to undertake an arduous climb from Bhawan to Bhairon Ghati for performing darshan at Bhairon Ji Temple. With a horizontal length of 375 metres and the level difference of 236 metres the Passenger Ropeway has the capacity to carry 800 pilgrims per hour particularly the elderly and specially-abled, to pay their obeisance at Bhaironji Temple, which was earlier difficult for them owing to a steep climb. Cabin Car of the Ropeway carries 40-45 persons approx. in one go and the time taken is 3 minutes. A nominal fare of Rs. 100/- only for the to and fro journey has been fixed by the Board to facilitate accessibility of the Ropeway to all. The Ropeway system has Automated Ticketing System on the pattern of Delhi Metro.

The project has been executed by a Joint Venture of M/s Garaventa and Damodar Ropeway with the consultancy of M/s RITES Ltd. It is pertinent to mention that M/s Garaventa is a Swiss Company that has provided machineries and equipments for the Cable Car. The Cable Car not only conforms to India Cable Car standard but also to the European standards.



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Passenger Ropeway

6.2.4 Ponies

Ponies are available for the journey from Katra to Bhawan via Sanjichhat Track (also known as old route) which takes about 3 hours to complete. There are more than 3800 ponies available for pilgrims that have been registered with the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Katra. Deputy Commissioner, Reasi is the Chairman and SDM, Katra the Secretary of the SPCA, Katra Unit.



Ponies



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6.2.5 Palanquins

Palanquins are available for the pilgrims who prefer to utilize this mode of transportation between Darshani Deodi and Bhawan.



Palanquins

The rates for Ponies, Pithoos and Palkis have been fixed by the Deputy Commissioner, Reasi. Presently, the hire charges for each of the services are as follows:

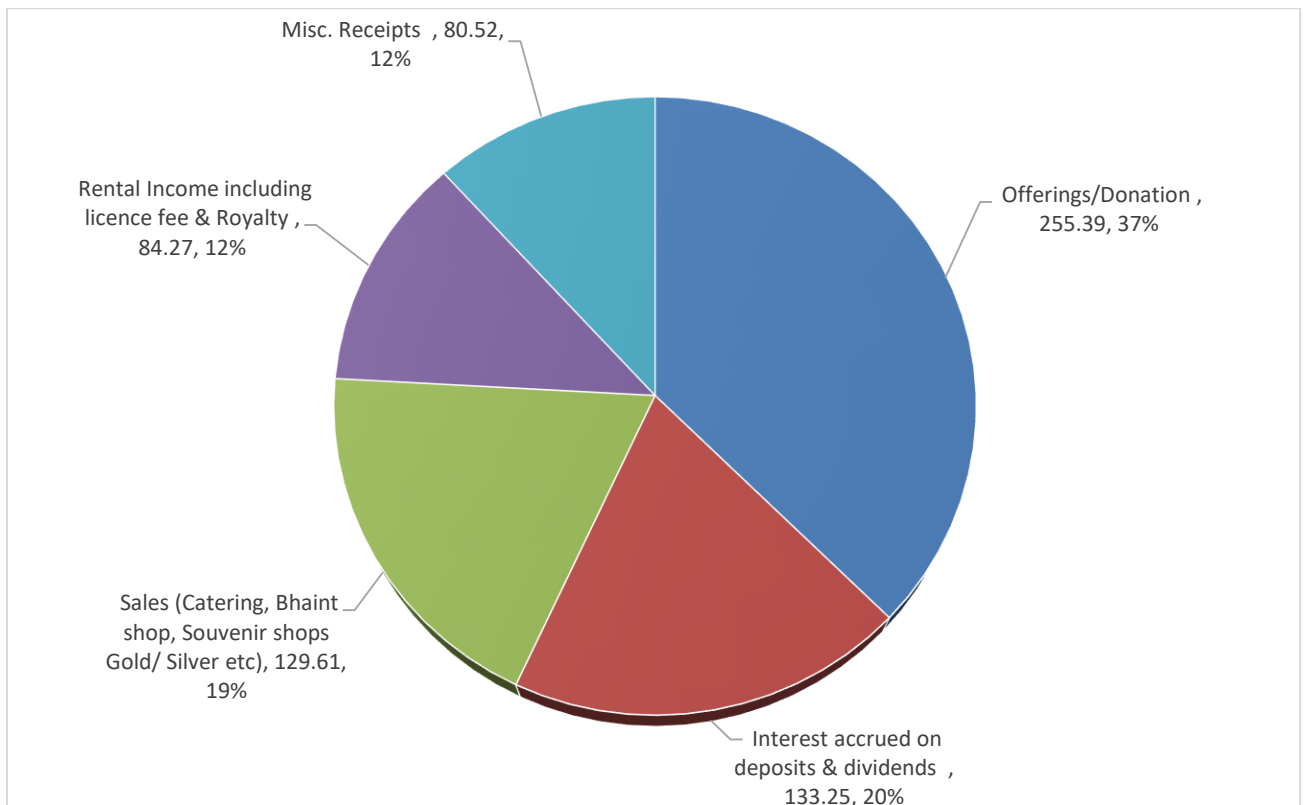
S. No.	Mode	Destination	Charges (Rs.) (exclusive of taxes)	Remarks
1.	Ponies	Katra-Bhawan (via Sanjichhat)	1200/-	One way
2.	Pithoo	Katra to Bhawan (via Sanjichhat)	600/-	One way
3.	Palki	Katra to Bhawan (via Sanjichhat)	3700/-	One way



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7. Income and Expenditure

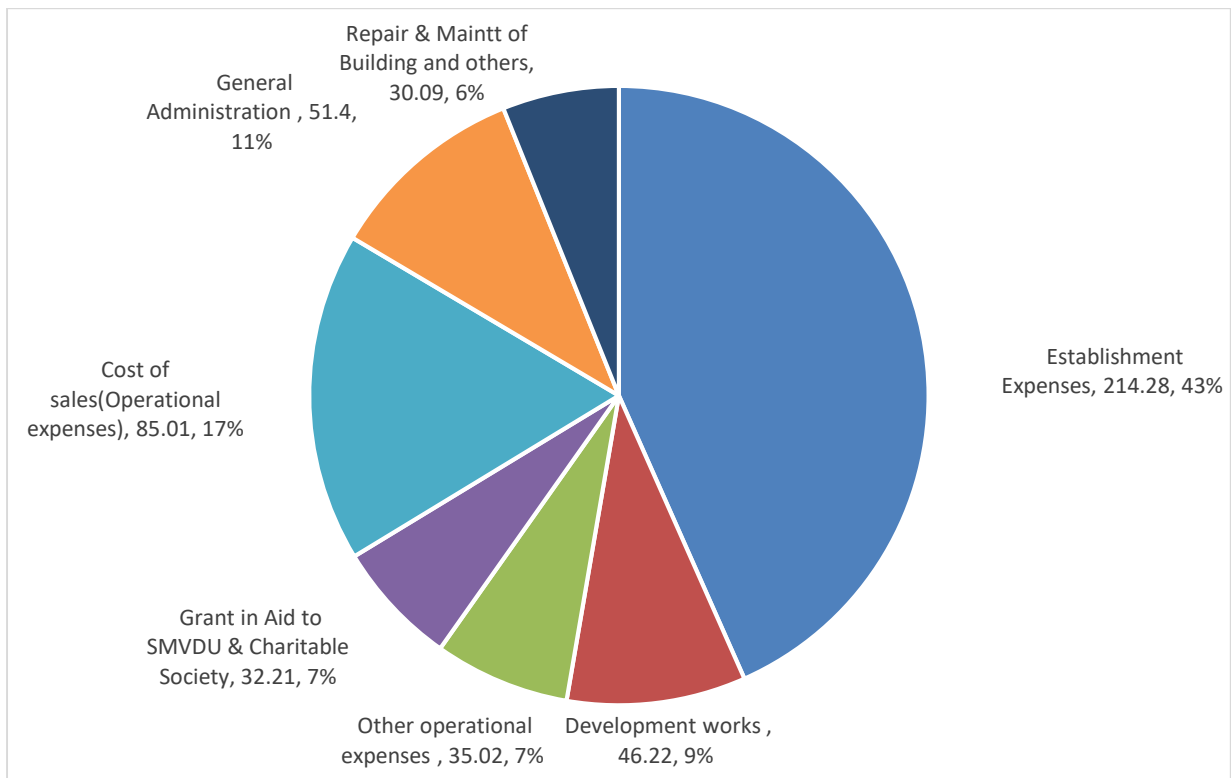
Income during FY 2023-24		
S.No.	Items	Amount (In crore)
1	Offerings/Donation	255.39
2	Interest accrued on deposits & dividends	133.25
3	Sales (Catering, Bhaint shop, Souvenir shops Gold/ Silver etc)	129.61
4	Rental Income including licence fee & Royalty	84.27
5	Misc. Receipts	80.52
	Total	683.04





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Expenditure during FY 2023-24		
S.No .	Items	Amount (In crore)
1	Establishment Expenses	214.28
2	Development works	46.22
3	<i>Other operational expenses</i>	35.02
4	<i>Grant in Aid to SMVDU & Charitable Society</i>	32.21
5	Cost of sales(Operational expenses)	85.01
6	General Administration	51.40
7	<i>Repair & Maintt of Building and others</i>	30.09
	Total	494.23





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8. Audit Report

The Statutory Audit for the FY 2023-24 has been completed by M/s S.R. Batliboi & Co. and same stands accepted by the Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB.



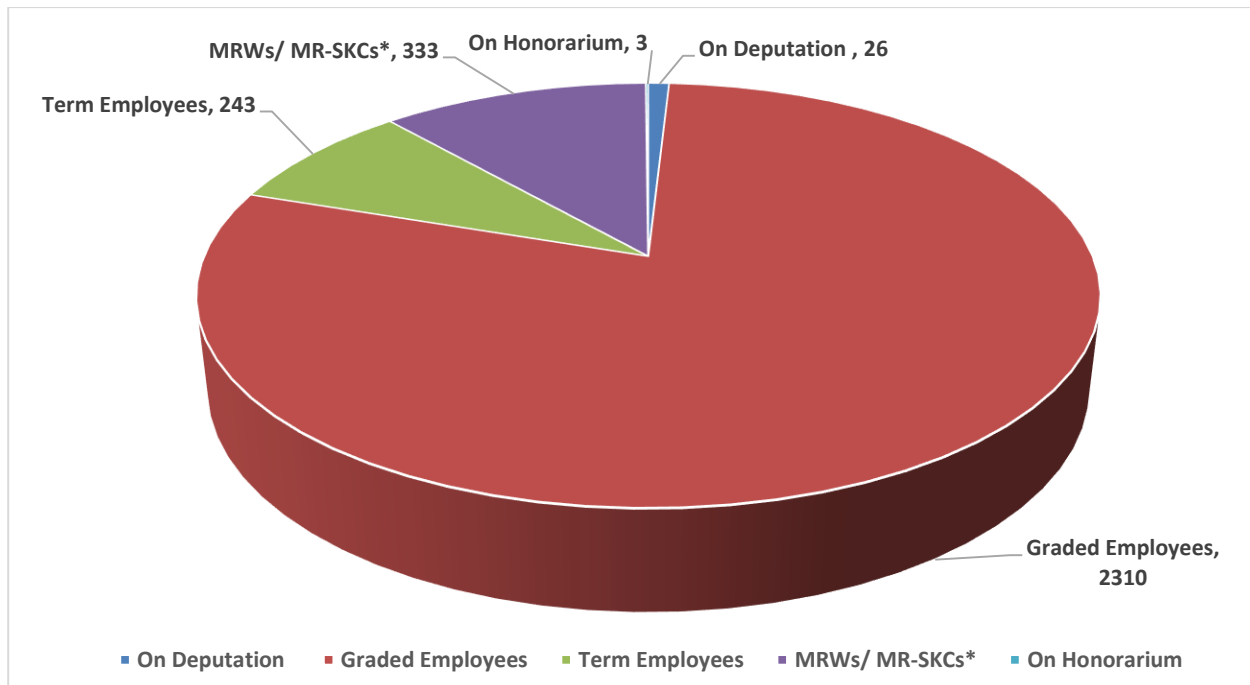
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9. Human Resource Management

10.1 The total manpower employed by the Board is as follows:

- **Strength as on 31.03.2024**

Type of Employment	Manpower Strength
On Deputation	26
Graded Employees	2310
Term Employees	243
MRWs/ MR-ASSs*	333
On Honorarium	03
Total	2915

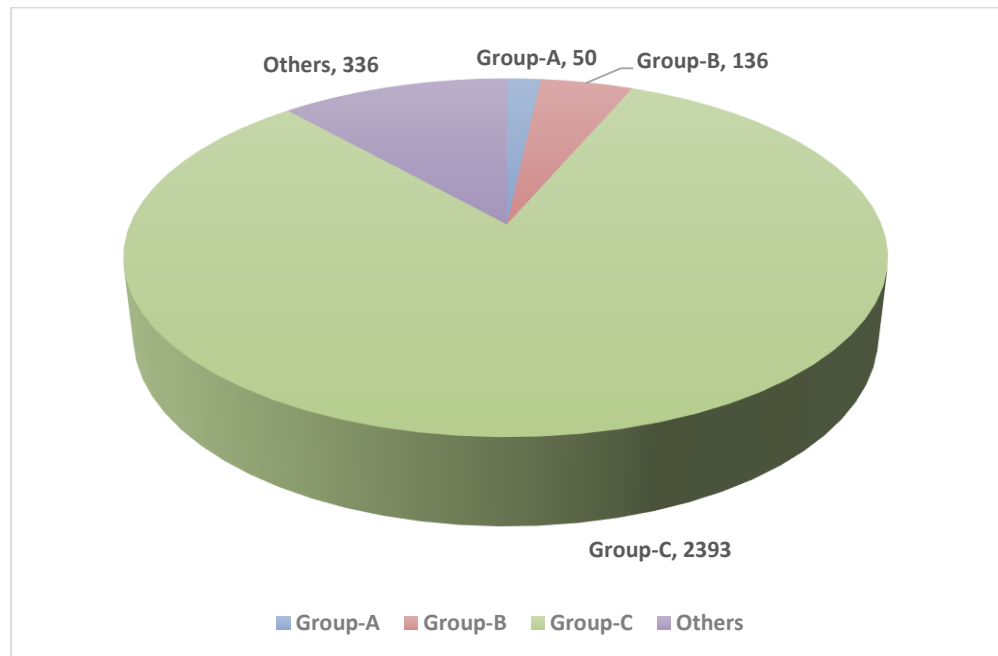


* Muster Roll Workers/Muster Roll Asstt. Swachhta Sahayaks



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Group wise Manpower Strength	
Group-A	50
Group-B	136
Group-C	2393
Others	336
Total	2915



- **During April 2023 to March 2024, 70 employees joined the Board under various categories as under:**

On Deputation : 09

On Term Employment : 61



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- During Financial Year 2023-24, 118 employees left the Board, for various reasons as per the detail given below:

S. No.	Reason for leaving Board service	Group A	Group B	Group C	Others	Total
1	On Transfer/Repatriation	5	3	0	0	8
2	On Superannuation	3	6	75	0	84
3	On Resignation	3	1	5	0	9
4	Death	0	0	10	0	10
5	Other Reasons	1	3	3	0	7
Total		12	13	93	0	118

10.2 Capacity Building

Training and development are an integral part of any organization as these vital components provide continuous learning by enhancing the skills and competencies of employees to face new challenges and broaden their perspective. This aspect results in better performance and outcomes. In furtherance of these objectives, at its 56th Meeting (held on 11-09-2015), the Board had approved a proposal regarding capacity building and skill upgradation of the Board's employees through training programmes imparted by various domain experts. The Board had also approved an annual allocation of Rs. 100.00 lakh for carrying out the skill up gradation programmes for its employees.

Various domain experts and national level institutes and agencies such as IIM Ahamdabad, M/s Safety Circle, Chandigarh, Art of Living, M/s Sophisticated Industrial Material Analytic Labs Pvt Ltd, M/s Anteaus Information Pvt. Ltd., M/s Food Craft Institute Jammu have been associated in past for imparting quality training programmes in their respective domains.



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The training programmes envisage three sets of trainings:

- i. Core skill set
- ii. Supplementary skill set
- iii. Employee welfare and well-being

The outcome of trainings is reflected in the APRs of employees.

10.3 Training Programmes conducted during 2023-24.

Category wise Training Programmes				
S. No	Name of Training Programme	Venue	No. of Participants	Training Conducted by
1	Training Programme on Billing Software	SGC	32	Ms/ Paytm Payment Services Ltd. New Delhi
2	Training Programme on the Refund Module of Heli Tickets	SGC	7	Ms/ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
3	Training Programme on Centralized Donation Management System	SGC	12	Ms/ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
4	Training Programme for the Catering wing of Shrine Board	SGC	10	In-house
5	Training Programme on Disaster Management	Sports Stadium, Katra	45	NDRF, Sui Camp, Udhampur
6	Training on Basic Life Support	SGC	30	In-house
7	Training on Noting and drafting	SGC	20	In-house
8	Training on Personal Hygiene	SGC	35	In-house
9	Training on Fire & Safety Hazards	SGC	35	In-house
10	Advance Cardiovascular Life Support & Basis Life Support	SMVDNSH	8	SMVDNSH
11	Training programme on STP installed at Banganga	Banganga	10	M/s Hi-tech sweat water



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12	Training programme on Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	50	M/s Hi-tech sweat water
13	Advance Cardiovascular Life Support & Basis Life Support	SMVDNSH	7	SMVDNSH
14	Refresher Course on Basic Disaster Management	SGC	40	In-house
15	Training programme on STP installed at Adhkuwari	Adhkuwari	10	External Expert
16	Training programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	SGC	50	In-house
17	Training programme on Basic Disaster Management	SGC	45	In-house
18	Refresher Course on Basic Disaster Management	SGC	50	In-house
19	Meditation-cum-yoga Workshop	SGC	50	Art of Living
20	Training programme on Construction Safety	SGC	25	Safety Circle, Chandigarh
21	Training programme on Stress Management	SGC	25	Safety Circle, Chandigarh
22	Training programme on Digital Transformation & Supply Chain Analytics	IIM, Lucknow	2	IIM, Lucknow
23	Training on Noting and drafting	SGC	20	In-house
24	Training on Basic Life Support	SGC	40	In-house
25	Training programme for Front Office Staff	SGC	25	Food Craft Institute, Jammu
26	Training programme for Electricians	GPJ	10	Govt. Polytechnic, Jammu
27	Training programme on STP installed at Niharika	Niharika	10	M/s Sophisticated Industrial Material Analytics Lab Pvt. Ltd.
28	Training programme on STP installed at Trikuta Bhawan	Trikuta Bhawan	10	M/s Sophisticated Industrial Material Analytics Lab Pvt. Ltd.



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29	Training programme on STP installed at Bhawan	Bhawan	10	M/s Sophisticated Industrial Material Analytics Lab Pvt. Ltd.
30	Training on Female Health & Wellness	SGC	40	In-house
31	Training on Personal Hygiene	SGC	40	In-house
32	Training on First Aid & Emergency Response	SGC	40	In-house
33	Training Programme for employees of Parks & Garden	Kunia Nursery	25	Department of Floriculture
34	Training Programme for employees of Parks & Garden	Kunia Nursery	25	Department of Floriculture
35	Training on Food Safety	SGC	25	FCI, Jammu
36	Training on AC & Refrigeration	GPJ	10	Govt. Polytechnic, Jammu
37	Training on Basic Computer Skills	GPJ	10	Govt. Polytechnic, Jammu
38	Training for for the Forest Wing	Jammu	9	Conservator of Forest at Jammu
39	Training Programme on Stratgic HRM	Ahmedabad	3	IIM, Ahmedabad
40	Training programme on Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	40	In-house
41	Training programme on Fire and Life Safety Hazards	SGC	40	In-house
42	Training programme on Noting and Drafting	SGC	20	In-house
43	Training Programme on taking people along: managing by persusian management	Ahmedabad	4	IIM, Ahmedabad
44	Training on Operation and Maintenance of Multipurpose Audio System	SGC	17	M/s Antaeus Information Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi



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45	Refresher Course on Basic Disaster Management	SGC	50	In-house
46	Training on Personal Hygiene	SGC	45	In-house
47	Training on Personal Hygiene	SGC	45	In-house
48	Refresher Course on Basic Disaster Management	SGC	50	In-house
49	Training programme for Plumbers	GPJ	11	Govt. Polytechnic, Jammu
50	Training programme on STP installed at Trikuta Bhawan	Trikuta Bhawan	12	M/s Sophisticated Industrial Material Analytics Lab Pvt. Ltd.
51	Training programme on STP installed at Bhawan	Bhawan	12	M/s Sophisticated Industrial Material Analytics Lab Pvt. Ltd.
52	Training programme on Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	45	In-house
53	Training on Basic Computer Skills	GPJ	12	Govt. Polytechnic, Jammu
54	Training for Pujaris of Shrine Board	Bhawan	16	Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan University,
55	Training for Pujaris of Shrine Board	Bhawan	15	Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan University,
56	Training on Female Health & Wellness	SGC	50	In-house
57	Training programme on STP installed at Niharika	Niharika	12	M/s Sophisticated Industrial Material Analytics Lab Pvt. Ltd.
58	Training programme on STP installed at Banganga	Banganga	12	M/s Sophisticated Industrial Material Analytics Lab Pvt. Ltd.
59	Training programme on STP installed at Adhkuwari	Adhkuwari	11	External Expert
60	Training on Basic Computer Skills	GPJ	10	Govt. Polytechnic, Jammu
61	Training programme on Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	45	In-house



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62	Training for Cooks	SGC	12	FCI, Jammu
63	Training programme on Stress Management	SGC	25	Safety Circle, Chandigarh
64	Training in Art of Living	SGC	20	Art of Living
65	Training in Art of Living	SGC	20	Art of Living
66	Training programme on STP installed at Bhawan	Bhawan	12	M/s Sophisticated Industrial Material Analytics Lab Pvt. Ltd.
67	Training on Personal Hygiene	SGC	50	In-house
68	Training on Basic Computer Skills	GPJ	12	Govt. Polytechnic, Jammu
69	Training programme on operationalization of GeM	SGC	10	In-house
70	Refresher course on Fire & Safety Hazards	SGC	50	In-house
71	Training on Noting and drafting	SGC	15	In-house
72	Training on Personal Hygiene	SGC	50	In-house
73	Training programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	SGC	50	In-house
74	Training in Art of Living	SGC	20	Art of living
75	Training in Art of Living	SGC	20	Art of living
76	Training on Basic Computer Skills	GPJ	12	Govt. Polytechnic, Jammu
77	Training programme on Guest Handling	SGC	20	FCI, Jammu
78	Training programme on Stress Management	SGC	25	Safety Circle, Chandigarh
79	Training programme on Stress Management	SGC	25	Safety Circle, Chandigarh



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80	Training programme for Electricians	GPJ	10	Govt. Jammu	Polytechnic,
81	Training on Basic Computer Skills	GPJ	10	Govt. Jammu	Polytechnic,
82	Training on Basic Computer Skills	GPJ	10	Govt. Jammu	Polytechnic,
83	Training Programme in Basic Life Support	SGC	50	In-house	
84	Training on Personal Hygiene	SGC	50	In-house	
85	Training on Personal Hygiene	SGC	50	In-house	
86	Training programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	SGC	50	In-house	
87	Training programme on Stress Management	SGC	25	Safety Chandigarh	Circle,
88	Training programme on Stress Management	SGC	25	Safety Chandigarh	Circle,
89	Training in Art of Living	SGC	20	Art of living	
90	Training programme on Guest Handling	SGC	20	FCI, Jammu	
	Total		2293		

In addition, exposure trips were organized at various religious institutions like Tirupati Balaji, Mahakaal Ujjain, Kashi Vishwanath Temple Varanasi, wherein senior functionaries of the Board have enhanced their skills.

10.4 Promotion of various categories of Shrine Board employees

For the career progression of the staff, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board issued orders for promotion of 97 employees interalia from different categories viz. 02 nos. from Group-A, 17 nos. from Group-B and 78 nos. from Group-C as per recommendations of Departmental Promotion Committees.



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10.5 Inauguration of Gayatri Bhawan (A residential complex for employees of the Shrine Board.)

The Board in its 69th Meeting (held on 12.04.2022) accorded in-principal approval for the construction of staff quarters at Nomain.



LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating Gayatri Bhawan at Nomain in Katra.

The G+4 Structure (Gayatri Bhawan) at Nomain Colony has a total of 44 apartments for employees with other facilities, such as Emergency stairs, Provision of lifts, 40 KW per day electricity requirement, Stilt Parking for 20 vehicles, 20,000 litres per day Water Storage Capacity etc.

The project was completed at a total cost of Rs 8.71 crore and inaugurated by the Lt. Governor (Hon'ble Chairman), SMVDSB on 06.09.2023.



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10. Religious Activities

10.1 **Shat Chandi Yagya for 'world peace' organized during Shardiya Navratra**

The nine day long Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board during Navratras for world peace, harmony, prosperity and health of humanity concluded on the auspicious occasion of Ramanavami at the Holy Shrine.



Shatchandi yagya at Bhawan during Shardiya Navratras

Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, other officers and staff of the Shrine Board, besides pilgrims participated in Purna Ahuti and other religious ceremonies performed amidst Vedic Mantras on the occasion. A group of pandits led by Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, performed the Maha Yagya.

An average of 40,000 pilgrims paid their obeisance daily and over 4 Lakh pilgrims had visited the holy shrine since the onset of Navratras. During the nine day long Shardiya Navratras last year, about 3.15 Lakh pilgrims had visited the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.



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SMVDSB had made grand decorations at Bhawan, Atka and the area surrounding it for the large number of pilgrims visited during Navratras to pay obeisance at the Holy Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. The decorations were made with indigenous-foreign fruits and flowers, as well as huge reception doors and pandals have been installed in the Bhawan Area. Likewise, the illumination of the Bhawan area with attractive and colourful lights had also been done.

Other highlights during these Navratras were bhajan and bhaint performances during morning and evening Atka Aarti by the renowned artists like Himesh Reshammiya, Mika singh, Lakhwinder Wadali, Maithili Thakur, Mani ladla, Kaler kanth, Kumar Vishu besides budding students of SMVD Gurukul.



Night view of Vaishno Devi Bhawan and Floral decoration at Bhawan during Shardiya Navratras

Earlier, the CEO attended the beginning of nine-day long Shat chandi Yagya amidst the vedic hymns, and performance of other religious ceremonies at the Holy Cave Shrine. The Yagya ceremony was also telecasted live on MH1 Shradha from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM daily during Navratras.



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Grand decorations of Atka area during Navratra at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

10.2 Artistically decorated Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan welcome Shardiya Navratra

Adorned with thousands of multi-hued flowers, the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji welcomed pilgrims visited the holy shrine in large number during the nine-day Navratras commenced from October 15th.



Floral decoration of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan during Chaitra Navratra

Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) reviewed the arrangements being put in place for pilgrims on the track and other locations which included round-the-clock seamless water &



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power supply along the track, sanitation, medicare and availability of special “fast-related” food at the catering outlets of the Shrine Board.

As was done during the Shardiya Navratra, the Shrine Board continued to deliver special facilities to the Divyangjan which included pony and battery car services on complimentary basis, besides, priority darshans at sanctum sanctorum during Navratras.



Artistically decorated Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan during Chaitra Navratra

Arrangements have also been made for ‘Shat Chandi MahaYagya’ at the shrine. The ‘yagya’ was telecasted live from 11.30 AM to 12:30 PM every day during Navratras. In addition, ‘bhajan’ and ‘bhaint’ performances by the renowned artists during morning and evening Aatka Aarti added a spiritual fervour for the visiting pilgrims. Pertinent to mention that the Aatka Aarti area stands remodelled to accumulate over 500 pilgrims in every session, thus doubling the earlier capacity.

10.3 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine lit up ahead of Ram Temple consecration ceremony.

As the nation geared up for the Ram Mandir consecration, the establishments of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board were lit up on 20 January 2024, symbolizing a poignant reminder of the unifying power of



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faith. The spiritual fervor transcended geographical boundaries and religious denominations, weaving a tapestry of shared devotion that resonated across India.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Bhawan lit up ahead of Ram Mandir consecration.



Adhkuwari Complex lit up ahead of Ram Mandir consecration.

10.4 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board celebrates 38th Foundation Day.

Anshul Garg, CEO, Shrine Board on 30th August attended the special Prayers, Havan and Yagya to mark the celebration of 38th Foundation Day



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of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at Katra. The Board was formed on this day in 1986.

On the occasion, CEO recalled the contributions made for the facilitation of the pilgrims throughout the journey and contended that the Shrine Board is committed to ensure the best possible facilities are put in place for the comfort and well-being of the pilgrims. He lauded the tireless efforts of each and every foot soldier and underscored that with Mata's blessings, we have emerged as one of the most visited Shrines in the country and our collective efforts have been recognized at the National Level in the form of National Water Award and National e-governance Award which indicates our steadfast pursuit of the mandate entrusted to us by the Board.



SMVDSB celebrates 38th Foundation Day

The CEO extended his gratitude to the Chairman of Shrine Board (Sh. Manoj Sinha Lt. Governor, JK-UT) for his continuous support and guidance under which a plethora of initiatives for facilitation of pilgrims and welfare of staff are being undertaken by the Board relatively in a short span of time.

At Katra, the main function was held at Niharika Complex where special prayers were performed by organizing Havan.



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11. Introduction of new facilities and services for pilgrims

11.1 Online Booking Facility for Passenger Ropeway and Panchang-2024

Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on December 12, 2023 inaugurated online booking facility for Passenger Ropeway from Bhawan to Bhairon ji for the convenience of the pilgrims and also released Panchang -2024 and diary of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.



Lt Governor released Panchang- 2024 of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the Shrine Board to provide better facilities and modern amenities to make the pilgrimage convenient and hassle-free.

The tickets for Passenger Ropeway are available through online portal www.maavaishnodevi.org which were earlier available at the counters only on first come first serve basis.

Initially, the online ceiling was 2000 tickets per day which was enhanced to 3000 tickets from 1st Jan, 2024 for the pilgrims. This initiative of Shrine Board not only facilitated the pilgrims but also curtailed manpower requirement and the operational expenditure of Shrine Board.

The LG said that it is our responsibility to enrich the traditional values and facilitate the spiritual journey of the devotees coming from



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across the country and abroad, especially those who are elderly, sick and specially-abled.

Members of SMVDSB; Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, Member, SMVD, Gurukul; Dr. M.K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor and senior officials of Shrine Board were present.

11.2 Prasad Cum Souvenir Counter in Departure Area of Jammu Airport

Lt Governor, JK UT, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board inaugurated Prasad cum Souvenir Counter of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in the departure area of Jammu Airport, on 6th June 2023.

The facility has fulfilled the long pending demand of the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji from across the country to make packaged Prasad and other Souvenir available at the Jammu Airport.



Prasad cum Souvenir Counter Inaugurated by the Chairman, SMVDSB at Jammu Airport

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lt Governor shared initiatives taken by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for providing better facilities to the pilgrims and also distributed the Prasad packages to the people at the airport.

Premium Panchmewa Prasad, Gold Medallions, Silver Coins and other souvenirs shall be available at the Prasad counter.



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Five dedicated Prasad Kendras cum Souvenir Shops have been made operational in the last 10 months besides operationalization of 07 counters in existing establishments.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Anshul Garg, CEO Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; members of the Shrine Board and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

11.3 Yatri Queue Management System (Sky Walk)

The Board at its 69th meeting (held on 12.04.2022), granted an in-principle approval for engagement of CPWD for construction of 'Yatri Queue Management System (Sky Walk)' at Bhawan, as per the drawings submitted by School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.

The total cost of the project is Rs. 15.69 crore, as approved by the Board at its 70th Meeting held on 12.12.2022. The project was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India on 12.10.2023.

The Sky Walk has a length of about 250 mtr. long and 2.5 mtr. wide (upto 4 mtr. wide at a few locations wherever possible) pedestrian flyover at an average elevation of 20 ft. above track level to serve as the entry route for yatries proceeding for Darshan. A seating arrangement for around 150 yatries has been created with enhanced width of 05 mtr. in a 40 mtr. Stretch. 02 dedicated Waiting Halls (01 at Lakshmi Bhawan and other adjoining Sky Walk (New Building) alongwith 02 emergency staircases have also been constructed to facilitate the yatries waiting in queue.

The facility is enabling the Board's team for effective crowd management at Bhawan, especially during peak yatra periods such as Navratras & New Year Eve. This has also led to creation of additional holding area for around 1000 pilgrims at Bhawan.

11.4 Revamped website of SMVDSB

The soft launch of the redesigned NextGen website was done by the Hon'ble Chairman during the 71st Board meeting convened on 19.08.2023.



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Around 3 Lakh pilgrims per month are being benefitted through services available on the new system. Pilgrims are now encountering a seamless experience devoid of manual intervention, including generation of digital receipts and payments. Dedicated modules for both online and walk-in bookings have been implemented across all services, including Helicopter Booking, Battery Car Booking, Donations, Pooja and Hawan, Aarti Bookings, Accommodation Management System, Yatra Registration, Souvenir/Prasad, and Ropeway Booking.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board
Online Services

Donation ▾ Yatra Parchi ▾ Travel ▾ Poojan ▾ Aarti ▾ Accommodation ▾ Prasad / Souvenir ▾

Recent Updates

- Prasad is now available for Online Booking.
- Havan Poojan Service is now available for Online Booking.
- Battery Car Service is now available for Online Booking.
- Helicopter Service is now available for Online Booking.
- SVP Service is now available for Online Booking.
- Atka Aarti Service is now available for Online Booking.
- Shrine Board is now accepting donations towards Prasad / Langar Seva for Sanjichhat and Tarakote locations.

Important Information : must read before Online Booking.

- All Online Bookings done through old website can be accessed in the Successful Transactions section of - [Click Here](#)
- Devotees can avail Online Services with valid Mobile number. Please complete the registration process for Shrine Board to provide Services.
- "For forgot Password / Account Lock / OTP Issues " please click Forgot Password and give your registered Mobile Number to receive OTP. Please check email in Spam/Junk/Bin/Trash folders as well.
- Beware...! Never share Debit/Credit/Account details, ATM PIN, Passwords, CVV, OTP over phone/email. Devaswom never asks for such details.
- Shrine Board has not authorized any agent/s for Online Booking of Darshan / Helicopter / Battery Car / Accommodation and other Services.
- For Any issues related to availing Online Services please write to us at online@maavaishnodevi.net, alternately Pilgrims can reach out to us at the following helpline numbers 01991-232887, 232820.

Jai Mata Di !!!

• For enquiry regarding Online Services - Contact - 01991-232887, 232820 , Email - online@maavaishnodevi.net.

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Revamped website of SMVDSB

Moreover, the introduction of digital payment facilities via QR Codes, UPI, and POS Machines for over-the-counter services, such as Helicopter Booking, battery car bookings, Prasad, Souvenirs, Accommodations,



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Ropeway Booking and donations, has streamlined payments and minimized the need for manual oversight, thereby enhancing efficiency and reducing potential discrepancies.

The benefits accrued from these advancements are manifold:

For Devotees:

- Enhanced architectural design and visual aesthetics.
- Secured registration with seamless integration via email/SMS.
- User profile storage for future transactions.
- Reduced queuing time at booking counters due to expedited verification processes.
- Integration of new Payment Gateway options including UPI payments.
- Convenient online service booking with downloadable e-receipts.
- Easy access to service availability via responsive web design, ensuring compatibility with mobile devices.
- SMS confirmations for each booking/verification.
- Integration of Whatsapp messaging.
- Minimal manual intervention with 100% digital fulfilment.

For Management:

- Real-time access to booking information.
- Instant availability status of service quotas.
- Auto-generated day-end reports for counter operators.
- Easily accessible and verifiable reports for each Unit-Head.
- Dashboards having Day-end consolidated reports providing insights into total pilgrims availing specific services.
- Integration of standalone systems and enhanced transparency through integrated reporting mechanisms.



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Digital payments are being encouraged in the various sale units of the Board to minimize cash transactions by way of Self-Serve Kiosk machine, QR codes, integrated EDC machines and UPI payments.

Self-Serve Kiosks offer facility to the devotee to place food order through a Digital Menu on a touch screen machine, pay digitally through UPI and collect receipt. Such Kiosk have been installed at three locations of SMVDSB i.e Sidhidatri Bhojnalaya, Niharika, Katra, Tripti Bhojnalaya & Tripti Buffet at Durga Bhawan complex. The facility besides enabling digital payments has allowed flexibility and convenience to pilgrims by eliminating queues and ensures ease of accounting.

POS have been installed at various establishments of the Shrine, with card and QR based payment options. In addition, QR codes have been displayed at prominent locations on the track to facilitate pilgrims in accessing Board's services.

As a result of these interventions, the share of digital transactions in over-the-counter services has increased to over 40% from around earlier 5%.

11.5 Underground cabling project in Shrine Area

The Board in its special meeting held in October, 2016 approved the Project of "Underground Cabling of HT/LT lines" prepared by the JKPDD under Prime Minister Package Katra for revamping of power T&D system in the shrine area at an overall cost of Rs. 78.68 crore with a share of Rs. 47.75 crore of JKPDD and Rs. 30.93 crore by SMVDSB.

Subsequently, additional components were included in the project, during the course of execution in view of operational requirements taking the overall project cost of Rs. 85.99 crore, with PMDP share of Rs. 47.26 crore and SMVDSB share of Rs. 38.73 crore.

The broad components of this project are Conversion of Overhead 11 KV & LT network to underground cabling at Katra, Bhawan and surrounding area, Installation of latest technology Ring Main Units for 11



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KV network for reliable power supply, Installation of Package Sub Stations & LT Feeder Pillars for providing service connection to Consumers, SCADA compatibility for monitoring the performance of Package substation, Ring Main Unit and overall Controlling / Monitoring of the 11 KV power system from Tarakote SCADA centre, O&M for 03 years. The Lt. Governor (Hon'ble Chairman), SMVDSB, inaugurated underground cabling project in Shrine Area on 06.09.2023.

11.6 Free Langar sewa commences at Bhairon ji during Shardiya Navratras

For facilitation of the pilgrims, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board started a free Langar Sewa on October 15 at Shri Bhairon Ji Temple Complex after commencement of Shatchandi Yagya on the beginning of auspicious occasion of Shardiya Navratras at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.



Inauguration of Free Langar sewa at Bhairon Ji

The Langar Sewa was inaugurated by Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB as per the directions of Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT). A pooja was held at the site before the commencement of the Langar Sewa. It is the third such facility by the Board in a row. Two are already operating at Tarakote Marg and Sanjichhat and both the



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facilities have received wide spread appreciations from the devotees who relish meals being offered in the form of Prasad during the arduous track upto the Holy Cave.

The Langar facility has commenced at the already existing spacious Bhojanalaya of the Board at Bhairon Ji which caters around 150 pilgrims at a time. The pilgrims are being served Dal-Rice and Tea from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight daily.

The Langar sewa has been started by the Shrine Board in its continuous endeavours for providing free meals to the maximum number of pilgrims visiting the Shrine.



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12. Meetings of the Board during the year

12.1. LG chairs 71st meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Lt. Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on 19th August chaired the 71st meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB). The meeting was attended by members of the Board, the LG's Principal Secretary Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari and CEO, SMVDSB.

The Board accorded in-principle approval for the establishment of a 100 seater medical college at Kakryal at an approximate cost of Rs 350-450 crore, besides, concurring with the projected need for expansion of the operational base of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH) through addition of 200 to 220 beds to the existing capacity of the hospital at an approximate cost of Rs.120 crore.



71st meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board held on 19th August 2023.

The Board gave in-principle approvals to as many as 36 agenda items having varied implications for the functioning of board and augmenting of pilgrim services including construction of a new yatri-cum-staff accommodation at Bhawan at an approximate cost of Rs 31.51 crore.



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The meeting also reviewed the progress of various pilgrim-centric mega infrastructure projects such as skywalk, retrofitting and remodelling of Parvati Bhawan and expansion of Atka area. CEO informed the Board that these prestigious projects underway at Bhawan are being expedited and are likely to be completed before the onset of “Sharadiya Navratras”. The CEO SMVDSB was directed to expedite construction of Shankaracharya Temple along with the creation of track and allied facilities and emphasized the need to engage all stakeholders for satisfactory resolution of all pending issues in this regard, the spokesman said.

CEO informed the meeting about the action taken on several fronts such as employees’ welfare, the amendment in administrative, financial and other powers to be exercised by various officers, the disaster management initiatives undertaken in the past and as to how these have helped in improving the employees’ level of preparedness to face any disaster-like situation.

The Board also approved the required grant-in-aid for the FY 2023-24 in favour of SMVD Charitable Society for strengthening the functioning of the board’s peripheral institutions like Gurukul, hospital, sports complex and college of nursing, the spokesman said.

Addressing the meeting, the Lt Governor reiterated that the facilities for pilgrims are topmost priority of the board and all steps must be taken for their hassle-free pilgrimage.



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13. Important events during the year

13.1 Lt Governor attends the Foundation Day celebration of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board & SMVD Gurukul's Annual Day at Katra

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed a ceremony organized to commemorate Foundation Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Annual day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Katra at Matrika Auditorium of SMVD University on 6th September. He also inaugurated Gayatri Bhawan, a residential complex for the employees of the Shrine Board at Nomain, e-inaugurated underground cabling project in Shrine Area and additional Dining and Accommodation at Gurukul during the occasion.

In his address, the Chairman extended his heartiest congratulations to all the Members, management and everyone associated with the Shrine Board and SMVD Gurukul.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also announced Children Education Allowance to all the employees of Shrine Board that will benefit all the staff having children in Schools from Sharadiya Navratri onwards in October this year. He shared the efforts of the Shrine Board to augment facilities for the pilgrims.



LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating SMVD Gurukul's Annual Day



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He also appreciated the endeavours of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul to provide quality education to the students stating that “Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul is transforming into a melting pot of science and Sanskar. He also released the second edition of “Brahimi” Annual Magazine of SMVD Gurukul.



Students performing play on Annual Day

Lt Governor felicitated the meritorious students who have excelled in academics and various other extra-curricular activities during the past one year. A Sanskrit Short Film “Tatvabodh” was also screened on the occasion.

Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal of the Gurukul, presented Annual Report of the institution while students of the Gurukul.

Members of the Shrine Board, senior officials, PRI members, Principal, students and faculty members of Gurukul were present on the occasion.

13.2 SMVD Gurukul holds 32nd Governing Council Meeting

The 32nd meeting of the Governing Council of SMVD Gurukul, was held on March 22 at Charan Paduka, Katra. The meeting presided by Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giri Maharaj, Member



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of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council for the Gurukul,



SMVD Gurukul holds 32nd Governing Council Meeting

The Chairman desired that a 15 years roadmap be devised for future growth of Gurukul both physically and academically for comprehensive learning experiences and academic excellence. He further stressed that up-gradation of Gurukul to post graduation level be also explored.

The Chairman while reviewing outstanding achievements of the students of SMVD Gurukul in academics and co-curricular activities underscored that the students must prepare for annual activities diligently in advance, aligning with the curriculum not only to attain optimal outcomes but also for their holistic development.

The meeting also noted participation of faculty and students at different Platforms, including in-house events & those at State, Zonal as well as at National Level.

The Governing Council, while approving the annual budget of Gurukul for financial year 2024-25 also concurred with the projected need for expansion of residential and academic blocks of SMVD Gurukul. After extensive deliberations the Governing Council also resolved to take further strides of expansion in alignment with NAAC accreditations.



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Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj Inaugurated Smart

On the occasion, the Chairman, SMVD Gurukul also inaugurated 08 Smart Classrooms and a Computer Lab, developed in collaboration with the J&K Bank under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Earlier, Mahamandleshwar expressed gratitude towards the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT for his patronage towards such institutions which has kept alive the Vedic and Sanatan traditions in the modern era.

13.3 SMVD College of Nursing holds 43rd Governing Body meeting

The 43rd Meeting of Governing Body (GB) of SMVDCoN was held on 3rd May, 2023 at Kalika Dham Jammu under the Chairmanship of Suresh Kumar Sharma, Judge (Retd.), Member SMVDSB. The Meeting was attended by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Dr. Shakti Gupta, Director, AIIMS, Jammu; Dr. Sunil Sharma, Joint CEO; Dr. Gopal Sharma, Asstt. CEO, SMVDSB; Sharda M. Potukuchi, Associate Prof. Dean, Faculty of Biotechnology, SMVDU; Dr. J.P Singh, Neuro Surgeon & Clinical Director, SMVDNSH and Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal, SMVDCoN.

Besides reviewing the progress of its earlier decisions, the GB had exhaustive deliberations on various forward looking proposals for excellence of the Nursing College which included finalization on the contours of admission to 1st Batch of "Post-graduate Program in Healthcare



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Quality and Patient Safety Management” being shortly rolled out by the College besides, issues connected with admission of students to the Academic Session 2022-23 of B.Sc Nursing Course.



SMVD College of Nursing holds 43rd GB meeting.

The GB appreciated the steps taken by SMVDCoN towards acquiring NAAC Accreditation and emphasised expediting the process to achieve Autonomous Status at an early date. In the same context, the impediments towards early execution of infrastructure additions / upgradation were deliberated by the GB and appropriate decisions were taken. The GB also approved a budget of the College for FY 2023-24.

The GB desired hosting a National Level Conference on “Recent Advances and Future Trends in Nursing and Healthcare Sciences”, towards the end of the year.

The Governing Body also desired a broader association with reputed institutions such as SMVDU / AIIMS, Jammu etc. for mutual benefit of institutions and offering viz-a-viz better learning platform to students of the College.



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13.4 Governing Body of SMVDNSH holds 68th Meeting - reviews functioning of Hospital and plan for Medical College

The 68th Meeting of Governing Body of SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal (Katra) was held on January 15 under the Chairmanship of Dr Ashok Bhan, Member, SMVDSB.

After reviewing progress of its earlier decisions, the Members expressed general satisfaction regarding over-the-years gradual healthy growth of the Hospital. This was manifested in all major performance benchmarks such as patient footfall, bed occupancy, revenue, clinical augmentation of operational base / capabilities etc. The Governing Body was informed that on a yearly basis, the Hospital provided IP-treatment to almost 50,000 patients across different specialties, besides OPD consultations to almost 60,000 patients out of which 1/3rd of treated patients are provided free treatment under the UT sponsored Ayushman Scheme. The Governing Body was also apprised that since the inception of Hospital in the year 2016, free treatments worth more than Rs.40 crore have been provided to more than 80,000 beneficiaries under the Medical Support Policy of Board.



SMVDNSH team after performing Cochlear Implant Surgeries



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It was also informed in the meeting that the Board has sponsored as many as 23 Cochlear Implant Surgeries as part of its local outreach initiative.

Several important decisions were taken in the Meeting. This included operational issues, critical review of progress of early expected Organ Transplant Programme of Hospital, finalizing plans for incurring capital expenditure for growth of Hospital upto 500 beds, extensive review of feedback / suggestions received from patients / attendants and firming-up of a road map for expanding services-framework of Hospital's Jammu clinic.

The Governing Body also critically reviewed the progress of early setting up of fully funded Medical College of the Board for general development of the region. Towards the end of the Meeting, Dr. Bhan emphasized expediency of execution as the essence of future plans relating to the Hospital / upcoming Medical College of the Shrine Board.

13.5 9th International Yoga Day celebrated at Board's Sports Complex

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports Complex, Katra on June 21 joined the practitioners nation-wide and across the world to mark the celebrations of the 9th International Yoga Day. The celebrations began with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp.

The CEO, SMVDSB, Anshul Garg in his message stressed upon all the participants to include Yoga in their daily life to remain physically and mentally fit, besides relieving themselves from stressful life.

Starting from 6:30 AM, the event concluded at 8:00 AM. The participants performed a series of Yogasanas in unison towards better health and wellness for all under the supervision of yoga experts following Common Yoga Protocol (CYP).



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Celebration of 9th International Yoga Day at Sports Complex



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14. Significant Accomplishment

14.1 SMVDSB registers hat-trick by securing 1st position in 'National Water Awards'

In recognition of the significant strides made by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) to promote water conservation and proper management of water in the category of 'Best Institution for Campus Usage', bagged in a row the First Prize for the 3rd time in the 4th 'National Water Awards-2023', thereby securing a hat-trick.

The Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar conferred the 4th National Water Awards on 17 June at an award distribution ceremony being organized at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. A total of 41 winners including Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, covering 11 categories from various states across the country selected on the basis of their work.

The prestigious award was received on behalf of the Shrine Board by Sh. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB who thanked the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti for recognising the work done by the Shrine Board for water conservation and proper water management successively for the 3rd time, adding that this award will encourage and motivate Shrine Board for continuing in its endeavour to adopt and promote best water usage practices also in future.

The Shrine Board besides making concerted efforts to provide the best possible facilities to the pilgrims under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, JK UT, inter alia, taking continuing initiatives and adopting best water management practices and techniques for water conservation.



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CEO SMVD Shrine Board, Anshul Garg receiving award from Vice-President of India at New Delhi

Earlier this year, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was also felicitated at the Jal Prahari Samman Samaroh–2023 held in the month of April at New Delhi.

14.2 **SMVDSB conferred with prestigious "Gold Award" for technology driven pilgrim-services at 26th National e-Gov Conference at Indore**

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has been conferred with prestigious National e-governance Gold Award by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in recognition of the significant strides made by the Board in the category “Application of Emerging Technologies for providing Citizen Centric Services” at National Awards for e-Governance-2023 on 25th August.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the award to Sh. Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB in a two-day Conference organized at Indore by Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) in association with the Government of Madhya Pradesh on the theme ‘Developed India; Empowering Citizens’. The Award carries a Cash Prize of Rs 10 lakh besides a Trophy and a Citation.



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Anshul Garg, CEO, who received the Gold Award, thanked the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances for recognizing the technology driven initiatives of Shrine Board in empowering the pilgrims by delivering highly improved citizen centric services under the directions and guidance of Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor, JK-UT) towards a hassle-free pilgrimage, adding that this honour will encourage the Board's team to work more zealously to deliver high quality services in easily accessible, efficient and user friendly manner to the pilgrims.



SMVDSB conferred with prestigious Gold Award for technology driven pilgrim-services at 26th National e-Gov Conference at Indore

Noteworthy that the Shrine Board has made concerted efforts for adoption of number of emerging technologies and robust response mechanisms for state-of-the-art facilities. These included the issuing of RFID yatra access cards to pilgrims and their real time tracking with the dedicated RF Network and over 700 CCTV cameras.

The Board has integrated digital payments in the various sale units of the Board to minimize the cash transactions by installation of Self-Serve Kiosk machines, QR codes, EDC machines, UPI payments and also onboarding to popular digital platforms for donations and sale of Prasad. The digitalization of the front-end services of Helicopter, Battery Car bookings



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by Shrine Board has facilitated the pilgrims and also improved administrative efficiencies through digital records and real time reporting.

14.3 Shrine Board's Archers excel in Asian Games and Championships

The Para-archers, Rakesh Kumar, Sheetal Devi and Sarita trained and groomed at SMVD Sports Complex created history and made the country and JK-UT proud by winning five medals which included two gold and three silver in various archery events at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China in different categories of Archery events started on October 22 and concluded on October 28, 2023.

Noteworthy that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met all the Para-archers on their return from the event and blessed Sheetal Devi, the only Para athlete to shoot with her feet in the world and made a hat-trick of medals at the Hangzhou Para Asian Games.



Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi interacted with Ms. Sheetal Devi Shrine's Para archer



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The Shrine's Para-archers, Rakesh Kumar, Sheetal Devi and Sarita also held country's flag high as India top the medals standings with nine medals at the Asian Para Archery Championships held at Bangkok, Thailand.

India bagged four gold, four silver and one bronze in which Shrine Para-archers contributed six medals by pocketing four gold, one silver and bronze in the total tally of nine medals won by Team India to top Asian Para Archery Championships.



Shrine Board's Archers Shine again in Asian Para Archery Championships held in Bangkok

Rakesh Kumar led the Indian challenge with a hat-trick of gold by clinching the men's compound open crown with a win over Indonesia and partnered Suraj Singh to win the men's compound open doubles against Chinese contestants, besides winning the mixed team gold with Sheetal Devi defeating Indonesia. Fourth gold for Team India was contributed by the phenomenal Shrine Para archer Sheetal Devi alongwith Jyoti in women's compound open team event and settled for silver in the tiebreaker against Singapore.

Noteworthy that besides securing five medals in the recent held Para Asian Games, the Shrine Para-Archers bagged three medals at Czech Republic Para Archery World Championship in the month of



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July-2023 and along with the medals, also won quota places for the 2024 Paralympics in Paris.

Shrine's Archers were also felicitated by the Lt. Governor, JK-UT who is also Chairman of the Shrine Board at Raj Bhawan on Nov 8, 2023.



Felicitations of Para Archers by Lt. Governor

He expressed satisfaction and pride that the Sports Complex is being developed as a center of excellence by the Board that has been successful in providing state of the art infrastructure, facilities, coaching and opportunities to the young sportspersons to prove their mettle which is being witnessed in the international events.



Para Archer Rakesh Kumar receiving the appointment letter



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Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on December 12 handed over the appointment letter to renowned Para-archer Rakesh Kumar at Raj Bhawan, Jammu. He congratulated the Para-archer on his appointment as an Assistant Coach in the Shrine Board Sports Complex. He said the remarkable performance of Sh Rakesh Kumar in the international events is a source of inspiration for many aspiring athletes.

14.4 **SMVD Gurukul's Sanskrit Short Film adjudged best in International Film Festival**

A 10-minute-long Educational Sanskrit Short Film 'Tatvabodh' presented by the students of SMVD Gurukul and sponsored by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was honoured with an award of Best Sanskrit Short Film in the first ever International Film Festival held at Spiritual Growth Centre from 5–6 August 2023.



SMVD Gurukul's Sanskrit Short Film adjudged best in International Film Festival

The film depicts significant insight into the awareness about pristine education framework in Gurukul and the journey of the protagonist from a Gurukul to Modern School and back to Gurukul after the tumultuous



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experiences of a father of the protagonist on finding scary traces of teen indulging into drug abuse impacting our society and daily lives.

As many as 171 films were screened from more than ten languages including Sanskrit and 85 films were awarded by the Jury in different categories during the valedictory function of the festival.

The award on behalf of the Shrine Board was received by Dr. J.C. Mehra, Jt. Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board also Administrator alongwith Principal, SMVD Gurukul.

Meanwhile, students of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul presented an impressive Sanskrit play at Auditorium of Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra for commemoration and revival of the ancient Indian language on 31st August to mark World Sanskrit Day.

Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Hon'ble Member, SMVDSB & Chairman, SMVD Gurukul said that "Bharatasya Pratishthe Dve Sanskritam Sanskritistatha" signified that India's pride is from Indian culture and Sanskrit.



SMVD Gurukul dedicates 'Sanskrit Play' on World Sanskrit Day



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18.2 Shrine Board's Gurukul excels at North Zone Youth Festival held at Himachal Pradesh

Students of the SMVD Gurukul have brought laurels to the Shrine Board by winning haul of 11 medals in 08 events during 3-day North Zone Youth Festival held from 28 – 30 November, 2023 at premises of Ved Vyas Campus of Central Sanskrit University Balahar, Himachal Pradesh under the aegis of Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi.

In the mega event around 300 students from Central Sanskrit University and Adarsh Maha Vidyalaya of Sanskrit, along with its various campuses situated in J-K, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand including Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Katra participated in various competitions.



Shrine Board's Gurukul excels at North Zone Youth Festival held at Himachal Pradesh

As many as 40 students of SMVD Gurukul participated in the event and won 02 Gold medals in Group Song and Rangoli; 03 silver medals in Sanskrit News writing, Yogasana and Wrestling; besides secured 06



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bronze medals in the categories of Educational Short Film making, Solo Sanskrit Song, Wrestling and High Jump events. The winning students were congratulated by CEO, SMVDSB for this spectacular performance.

Earlier to the commencement of the event, Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Chairman, SMVD Gurukul and Member, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board visited the campus at Katra and motivated the students exhorting that they would be serving as an inspiration for the other students and while participating in the forthcoming event should not feel the pressure of expectations and just focus on giving their 100 percent.

15. Visits of Dignitaries

The following dignitaries visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum during the year 2023-24

i) President of India pay obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

President Droupadi Murmu paid obeisance at the Vaishno Devi shrine on October 12 and inaugurated a skywalk and the remodelled Parvati Bhavan at the shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district.

The President, who was on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, was accompanied by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on the visit to the shrine. The CEO of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) Anshul Garg briefed President about the projects.

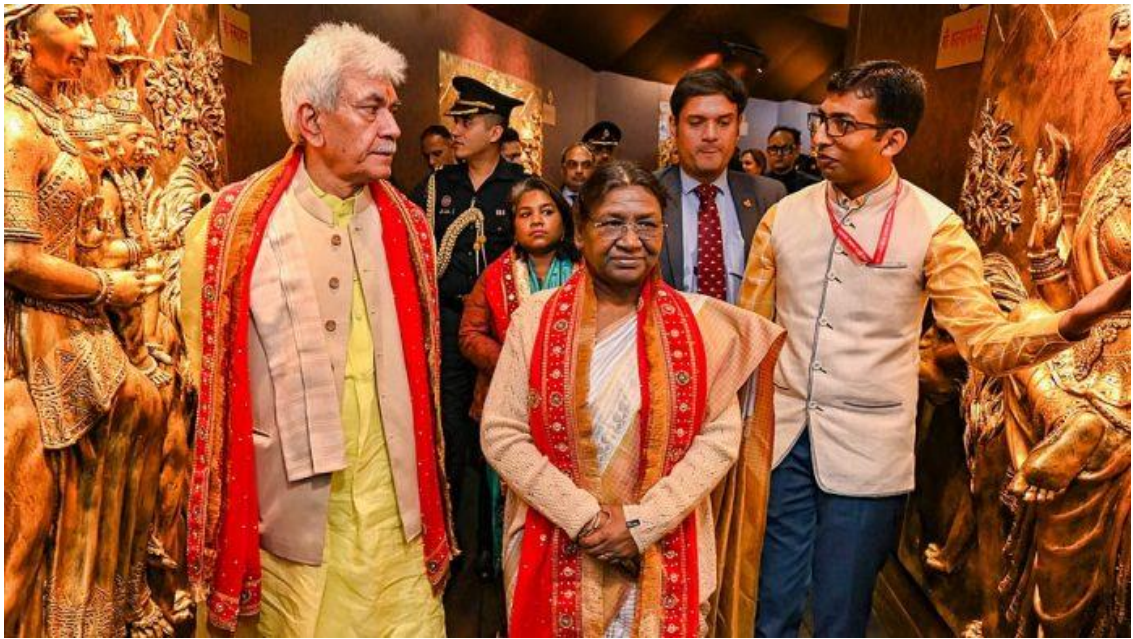
The 200-metre skywalk has made the journey of pilgrims smooth as it has separated the path taken by them to the Bhawan and while returning after visiting the Shrine. Besides, has overcome the problem of a multidirectional flow of pilgrims and a chaotic condition at Bhawan. The skywalk was planned to decongest the



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flow of pilgrims and help in better crowd management at Bhawan during the peak periods.

Parvati Bhawan has been fully remodelled and is a free-of-cost facility for the pilgrims. It has been linked with the skywalk to ensure that pilgrims proceed directly to the shrine after depositing their luggage. It has facilities of 1,500 lockers that cater to 10,000 to 15,000 pilgrims every day.



President Droupadi Murmu at Mata Vaishno Devi Ji's Shrine.

ii) **Three union ministers, pay obeisance at the Holy Shrine (11.04.2023)**

Union ministers Sh. Nitin Gadkari, Dr. Jitendra Singh and Sh. V K Singh visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on 11th April, 2023. The union ministers were received by Lt Governor, JK-UT and Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at Bhawan. The dignitaries paid their obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum.



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Union Ministers alongwith Chairman, SMVDSB, pay obeisance at the Holy Shrine

iii) **Chief Justice of India pays obeisance at Vaishno Devi (29.06.2023)**

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on June 29 and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum.



Chief Justice of India paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine

On his arrival at Katra, the Chief Justice of India was received by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. The Chief Justice of India was accompanied by the Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court.



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The CEO briefed the dignitaries about the continuing initiatives being taken by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT for upgrading and expanding the infrastructure for facilitating the progressively increasing number of pilgrims to the Holy Shrine.

The CJI complemented the efforts being initiated by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for welfare and providing facilities to the visiting pilgrims to make their pilgrimage hassle-free.

iv) **Education Minister of India pays obeisance at Vaishno Devi (28.12.2023)**

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in the Government of India visited the holy cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi on December 28 and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum.



Sh Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB presenting a memento to Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Education.



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He was accompanied by Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. The CEO briefed the Hon'ble Minister about various infrastructure development initiatives taken and arrangements being put in place by the Shrine Board for continuously improving the facilities for the visiting pilgrims.

16. Allied Institutions

While making continuing endeavours for enlarging infrastructural and other facilities for facilitation of the visiting pilgrims, the Shrine Board has been taking initiatives for transforming socio-economic development profile of Katra, its surrounding areas and the society at large. The thrust areas under this initiative, interalia, include the sectors of education, healthcare and sports. In furtherance of this objective, the Shrine Board has established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital and Shrine Board's Sports Complex. These institutions are serving the society with distinction and have made a mark in their respective spheres.

16.1 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University

Established by the Shrine Board in 2004, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University is an autonomous, highly technical and fully residential university. A very high emphasis has been laid on strengthening of infrastructural facilities and developing the varsity as a centre of excellence in teaching and research. As a consequence, it has witnessed a remarkable growth over the past 18 years. The university is spread on a sprawling and picturesque campus in the backdrop of Trikuta Hills at Kakryal, near Katra. The university has highly qualified faculty from various parts of the country. It has been equipped with hi-tech labs, hostels and other buildings to provide excellent enabling environment and wherewithal of teaching and research to the students who seek admission in this institution of higher and technical learning from across the country. The students passing out from



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Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University are serving the society and the world at large with distinction. The university is scaling new heights of glory which is evident from the constant improvement in its ranking among the engineering and management institutions in NIRF with every passing year.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University

16.2 **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul**

The Shrine Board also established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul at Charan Paduka, near Katra in 2010, to provide quality modern education at this Gurukul along with Vedic and Sanskrit education. This initiative has been taken in furtherance of the duty of the Board to make arrangements for imparting of religious instructions and general education. The emphasises is also on skill upgradation of students by imparting practical training to them in Vedic Mantras, Karam Kand, Jyotish etc. to enhance their employability. The Gurukul has also been upgraded and is providing education upto Shastri level from the 2017-18 academic session for which Gurukul Phase-II was constructed. Presently 182 students are studying in classes 6th to Shastri Part-III and 17 students passed out. Gurukul is fully residential, affiliated to the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, a leading Sanskrit University in the country. All the students are



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provided education, boarding, lodging, uniforms, books and other required facilities at the cost of the Board. Given the excellent infrastructural and other allied facilities provided by the Shrine Board to impart top quality education to the Gurukul students, they are bringing laurels in both academics and co-curricular activities year after year by their excellent performance.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul

16.3 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing

Continuing with its another initiative in the field of education, the Shrine Board established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN) at Kakryal which started functioning from July 2016. The objective of setting up the College of Nursing is to provide quality nursing education of highest standard to the students so that after passing out from this institution they serve the humanity with utmost commitment and distinction. The establishment of the Nursing College is yet another testimony of the Shrine Board towards its contribution to the society. The



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College of Nursing is approved by the Indian Nursing Council and J&K Nursing Council and 60 students are admitted to this institution every year. The SMVDCoN is affiliated to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. Besides having a highly qualified faculty, the institution is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing

16.4 **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital**

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital set up by the Shrine Board at Kakryal, near Katra, caters to the patients across more than 20 different specialities with focus on cardiac sciences and oncology. This 230-bedded tertiary care hospital, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in April 2016, is equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment facilities and provides highly specialised and quality healthcare at affordable cost. The hospital, fully equipped with high-end computerised diagnostic and treatment equipments including Linear Accelerator, Brachy Therapy, Gamma Camera, MRI, PET CT, CT Scan, Cath Lab, Endoscopy and Broncho therapy, most modern Dialysis Unit and other related facilities, has well equipped Critical Care Ambulances and



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superspecialist doctors and highly trained nurses, paramedics and other staff. Continuing initiatives are being taken for further enhancing its operational capacities and standards of patient care in tune with the emerging and futuristic requirements by augmenting and upgrading the wherewithal in the identified specialties. The establishment of this Superspeciality Hospital has completely transformed the healthcare scenario in the area with people from within and outside Jammu and Kashmir taking benefit of this facility.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

16.5 Shrine Board's Sports Complex

The Shrine Board's Sports Complex which was established in 2016 at Katra has become a nerve centre of sports activities and changed the entire profile of sports and games in the area. The sports persons trained, nurtured and groomed at this Sports Complex are bringing laurels by winning medals at various national and international level competitions. Regular sports events are organised at this Complex as per approved



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annual calendar of activities, including several major sports events and summer and winter coaching camps, which is contributing significantly towards giving a major boost to the sports culture in the area. This Sports Complex was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in April 2016. Apart from the focus disciplines of archery, shooting, athletics and basketball for which the state-of-the-art equipment has been provided by the Board, other sports and games are also being promoted in a big way at the Sports Complex. A large number of sports persons from Katra and the surrounding areas are regularly participating in the coaching camps organised at the Sports Complex in the prioritised as well as other disciplines.



Shrine Board's Sports Complex

- **SMVD Sports Complex organises one day JK-UT Open Chess Championship**

SMVD Sports Complex, Katra on April 17 organised a one day UT Level Chess Championship which culminated with a participation of around 45 players across the UT from all the categories. The championship was organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex in collaboration with All J&K Chess Association.



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Winners who were announced in the main section were given cash reward of 10K, 5K and 3K respectively. However, in the Sub-Junior category, the winners were given cash reward of 5K, 3K and 2K respectively. Ms. Alankrita Sharma was declared as best woman of the championship who was awarded with a cash award of 5K.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board congratulated all the winners for their excellent performance.



SMVD Sports Complex organises one day JK-UT Open Chess Championship

- **Para-archers, SMVD Sports Complex bag five medals at Czech Republic Para Archery World Ranking Tournament**

Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi trained and groomed at SMVD Sports Complex have brought laurels to the country by winning five medals at Para Archery World Ranking Tournament held at Czech Republic.

Rakesh & Sheetal Devi won gold in Compound open mixed team, besides, Rakesh won gold against France in Compound men open doubles. Sheetal also clinched silver in compound women open and bronze in compound women doubles. The Indian team secured nine medals out of which five medals were contributed by the Shrine archers.



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Para-archers from SMVD Sports Complex ensure three gold, one silver and bronze at Czech Republic Para Archery World Ranking Tournament

Lt. Governor who is also the Chairman of SMVDSB congratulated both the sports persons for their performance tweeted that 'the entire nation is proud of their achievement and their feat will inspire millions of our youth'.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, Shrine Board and Chairman of Governing Council of SMVD Sports Complex also extended his congratulations to both the participants for representing the country in the Czech Republic and their excellent performance in the event.

Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB congratulated both the sports persons while adding that the Shrine Board's support extended towards sports is being appreciated and it is a matter of pride that players nurtured at SMVD Sports Complex are putting Jammu & Kashmir UT on the world map.

- **Shrine Board Archers excel at Khelo India University Games**

Three Archers namely Hrithik Sharma, Amit and Shavej from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra who excelled in the archery events of Khelo India University Games recently held in Lucknow returned with a haul of three medals in compound event met Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB on 3rd of June, 2023.



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Shrine Board Archers excel at Khelo India University Games

The CEO applauded these archers and also congratulated the coach Kuldeep Vedwan for his expert coaching, hard work and dedication due to which the archers and para-archers from SMVD Sports Complex were able to secure medals at National and International Levels. Among those present on the occasion were Vipin Bhagat, Asstt. CEO, SMVDSB, Coach and Archers from SMVD Sports Complex.

- **Shrine Board Para Archers create world records; makes into Paris 2024 Paralympics**

The three Archers of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sports Complex, Katra have created history by winning one Gold, one Silver and one Bronze medal in Pilsen -2023, Czech Republic World Archery Para Championships.

The Indian compound archers Sarita and Rakesh Kumar gave a fine performance to claim the country's first-ever gold medal in the World Archery Para Championships. Sarita and Rakesh defeated Brazil's archers in the final. Sheetal Devi bagged the compound women's individual silver medal whereas, Sarita bagged a second medal when she took the women's team bronze with Jyoti.



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Having started archery training from SMVD Sports Complex only about a year ago, Sheetal is the first female armless archer to win a silver medal at the para world championships.



Para Archers from SMVD Sports Complex

Along with the medals, Sarita, Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi also won quota places for the 2024 Paralympics in Paris for reaching the finals.

Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT Shri Manoj Sinha also Chairman, SMVDSB extended congratulations to the Para-Archers for their outstanding performance in the World Archery Para Championships.

- **Mahamandleshwar inaugurates 12th J&K Union Territory Shooting Championship at SMVD Sports Complex**

12th J&K UT Shooting Championship got off to a glittering start on 2nd August at SMVD Sports Complex and concluded on 5th August, 2023. Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Member of the SMVDSB inaugurated the tournament in the presence of Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB and S. S. Sodhi, President Jammu and Kashmir Rifle Association (JKRA).



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The Championship organized by Jammu and Kashmir Rifle Association in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board under the aegis of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).



Mahamandleshwar inaugurates 12th J&K Union Territory Shooting Championship at SMVD Sports Complex

17. Social Support Initiatives

The Shrine Board in its endeavour to promote the interest of families living in the villages located in close vicinity of the Shrine area has been carrying out various social and economic development activities for the past several years, which include scholarships for meritorious students, financial assistance to girls for marriage, support to Self Help Group beneficiaries from Katra and nearby areas, medical insurance, free health camps and improving sanitation and augmenting and upgrading civic amenities in Katra and the surrounding areas.

18.1 Shrine Board's Medical Support Policy

During the Financial Year 2023-24, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board spent an amount of Rs. **703.83** lakh under its Medical Support Policy for providing



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Medical Support to various categories of patients. These categories include Pilgrims, Shrine Board's employees and their dependents, students of the College of Nursing and Gurukul, and the Landowners (whose land was acquired for the setting up of SMVDU and SMVDNSH) and to poor and needy patients in general (under Arogaya Yojna, a component of the Medical Support Policy of the Shrine Board), Special Accident Cases, Divyang Patients (free OPD Medicine) and Registered Sports Persons. The Board made the expenditure as per the details given below:

S. No.	Category	OPD / IPD	FY/ 2023-24	
			(Apr23- Mar 24)	
			No.	Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)
1	Pilgrims	OPD/ IPD	392	173.15
2	Landowners	OPD	396	11.89
		IPD	14	2.93
3	Employees and their dependents	OPD	11,079	251.17
		IPD	303	148.57
4	Students of SMVDCoN	OPD	613	10.24
		IPD	0	0.00
5	Students of Gurukul	OPD	24	0.64
		IPD	0	0.00
6	Gratuitous Relief	OPD/IPD	14	104.09
7	Special Accident Cases	IPD	0	0.00
8	Divyang Patients (free OPD Medicine)	OPD	23	0.59
9	Registered Sports Persons	OPD	12	0.38
		IPD	1	0.20
Total:			12871	703.83



Administrative Report 2023-24

And the efforts continue.....

The Shrine Board's management is committed to serve the visiting pilgrims in the best possible way and in this endeavour, enormous and persistent efforts are being made to upgrade the pilgrim-centred facilities such as further augmentation of water and power supply, accommodation, healthcare facilities, catering arrangements, construction and maintenance works, hygiene and sanitation, online bookings and much more. These initiatives and efforts shall continue to be at the core of Shrine Board's activities in the future as well. Further, to augment and streamline pilgrim amenities in the Bhawan area, a comprehensive Master Plan for Bhawan and the Extended Shrine Area is being implemented for undertaking streamlined and planned developmental activities as per emerging requirements of the pilgrimage.

Jai Mata Di !