

जय माता दी



**Administrative Report
2022-23**



SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD



Administrative Report 2022-23

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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 along with 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



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enormous human and material resources in developing the best and the most modern 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 31-03-2023

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



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in working along with many others Religious and Social organizations for human welfare.

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



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advocate general for J&K govt. in J&K High court at Jammu in 2016- 2017. At present, 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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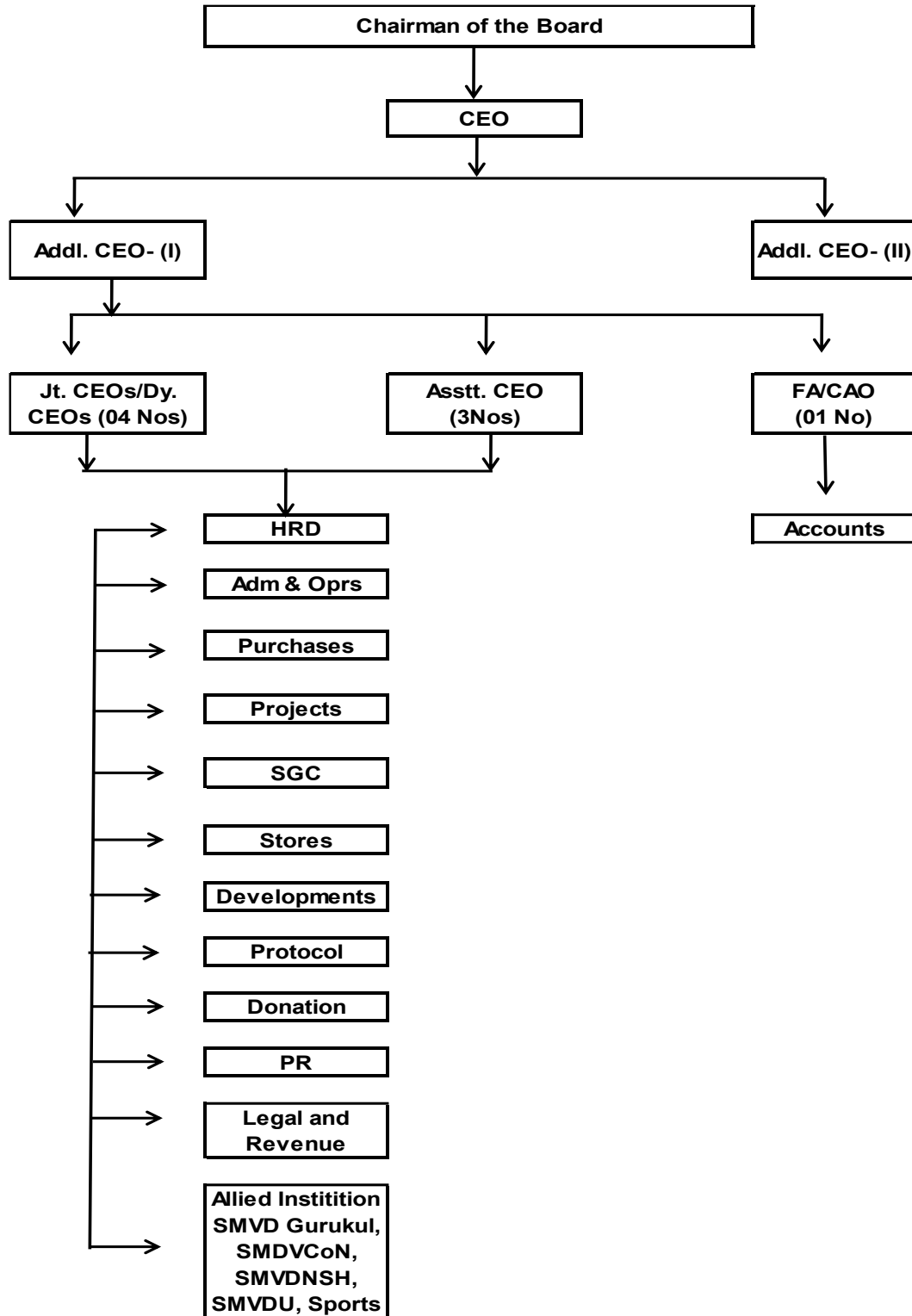
Officers of the Board as on 31-03-2023

- Shri Anshul Garg, IAS, Chief Executive Officer
(7 May 2022 -).
- Shri Navneet Singh, IFS, Additional Chief Executive Officer
(11 February 2022 -)
- Dr. Sunil Sharma, JKAS, Joint. Chief Executive Officer
(16 January 2020-).
- Dr. Jagdish Chander, JKAS, Joint. Chief Executive Officer
(22 February 2019 -).
- 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, Asstt. 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 2022, a total of 91,24,970 pilgrims visited the Shrine as against 55,88,174 yatris who paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum in 2021.

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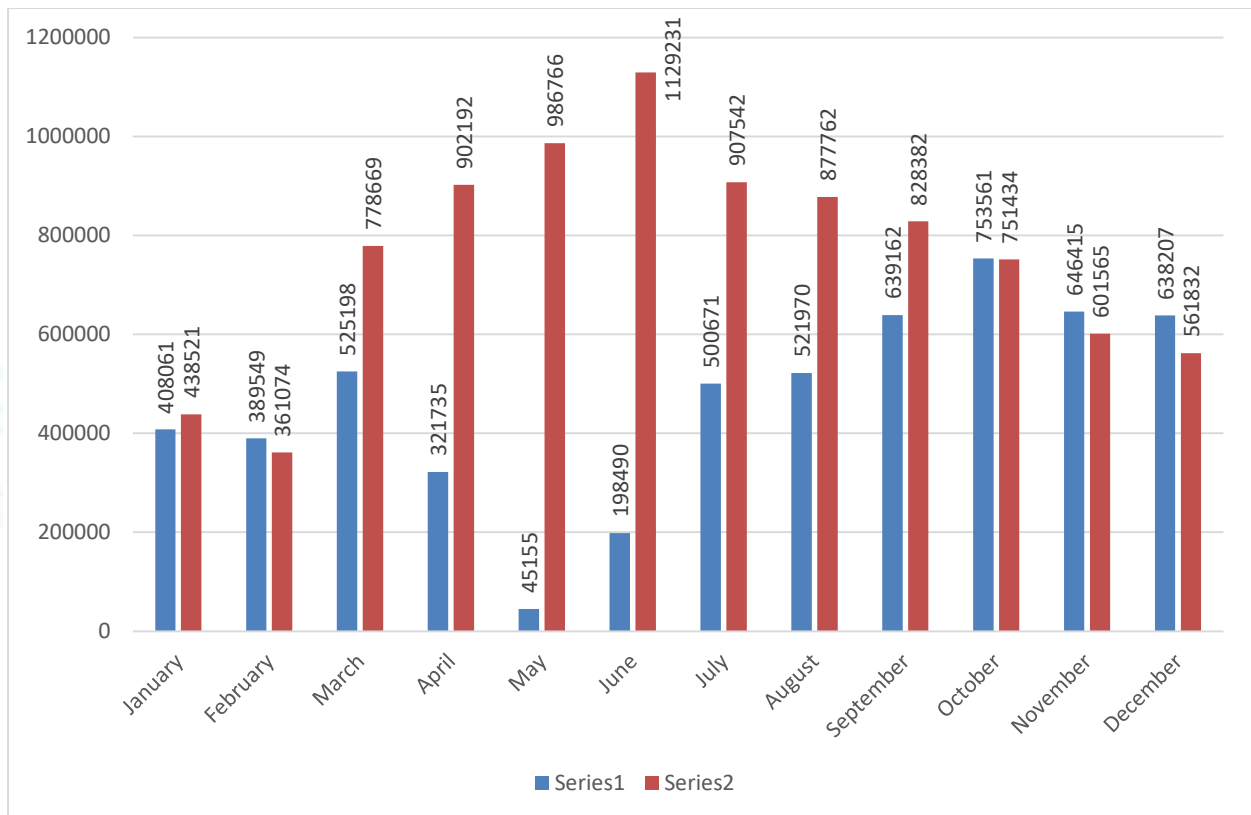
25	2010	87,49,326
26	2011	1,01,15,647
27	2012	1,04,95,269
28	2013	93,23,647
29	2014	78,03,193
30	2015	77,76,604
31	2016	77,23,721
32	2017	81,78,318
33	2018	85,86,541
34	2019	79,40,064
35	2020	17,20,357
36	2021	55,88,174
37	2022	91,24,970

Month Wise Yatra comparison 2021 v/s 2022

Month	2021 No. of Yatris	2022 No. of Yatris
January	4,08,061	4,38,521
February	3,89,549	3,61,074
March	5,25,198	7,78,669
April	3,21,735	9,02,192
May	45,155	9,86,766
June	1,98,490	11,29,231
July	5,00,671	9,07,542
August	5,21,970	8,77,762
September	6,39,162	8,28,382
October	7,53,561	7,51,434
November	6,46,415	6,01,565
December	6,38,207	5,61,832
Total	55,88,174	91,24,970



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The largest number of pilgrims who visited the Shrine was during June 2022. The months of March to November were the peak season of the pilgrimage while the lean period was during January, February and December.

6.2 Modes of Travel by Yatries

6.2.1 Helicopter Services

The one-way passenger fare for heli-travel between Katra and Sanjichhat during 2022-23 was Rs. 1830/- per passenger. 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



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pecially-abled pilgrims. A total of 4,79,475 yatris availed this service during 2022-23.



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 2022-22, the charges per passenger for 30-minute journey from Adhkuwari to Bhawan and from Bhawan to Adhkuwari were Rs. 354/- 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 7,32,093 pilgrims used this facility in the year 2022-23.



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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 can carry 40-45 persons 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



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Cable Car not only conforms to India Cable Car standard but also to the European standards.



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 4,194 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.



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Ponies

6.2.5 Palanquins

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



Palanquins



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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:

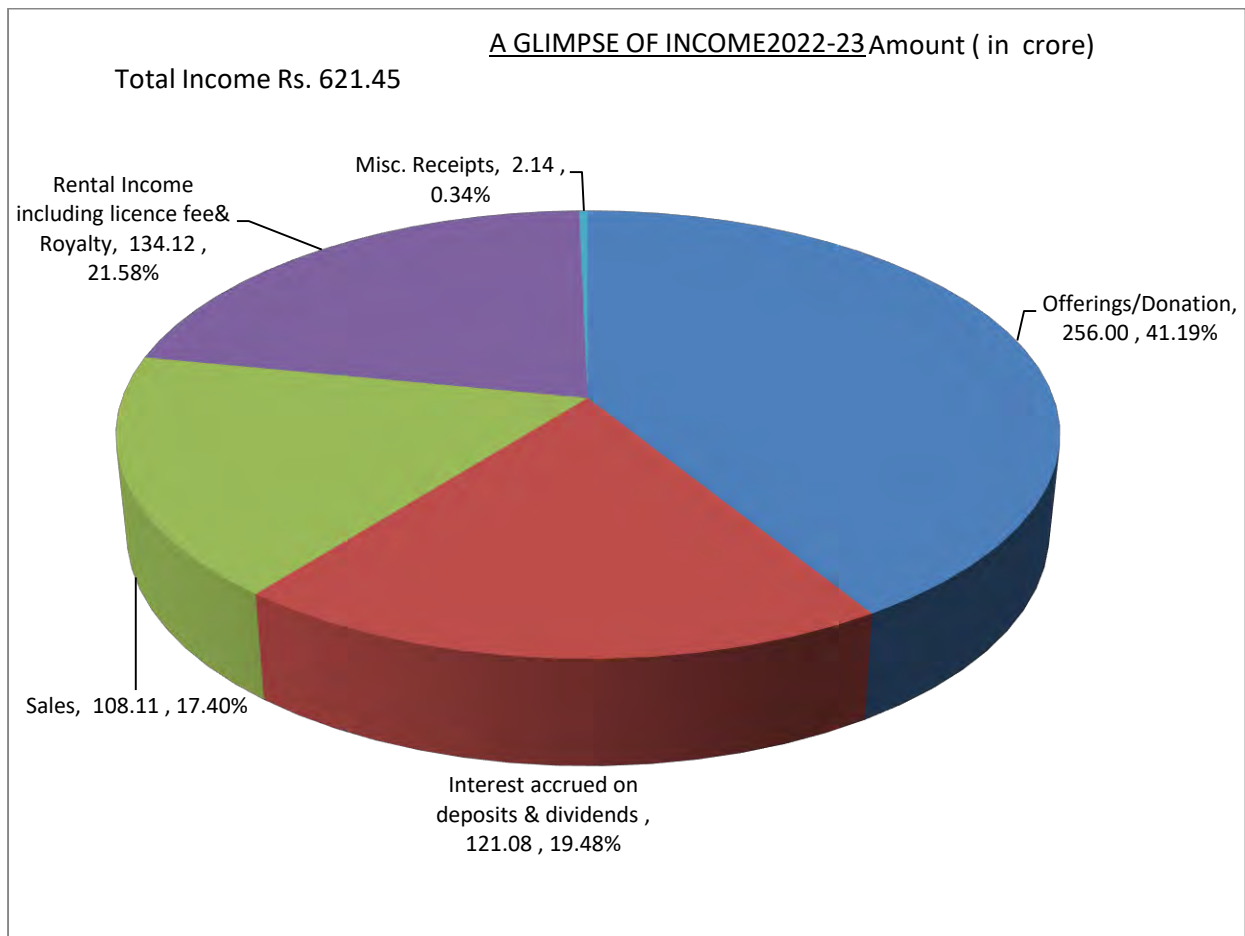
S. No.	Mode	Destination	Charges (Rs.) (exclusive of taxes)	Remarks
1.	Ponies	Katra-Bhawan (via Sanjichhat)	1200/-	One way
2.	Pithoo	Katra to Bhawan (via Sanjichhat)	600/-	One way
3.	Palki	Katra to Bhawan (via Sanjichhat)	3700/-	One way



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7. Income and Expenditure

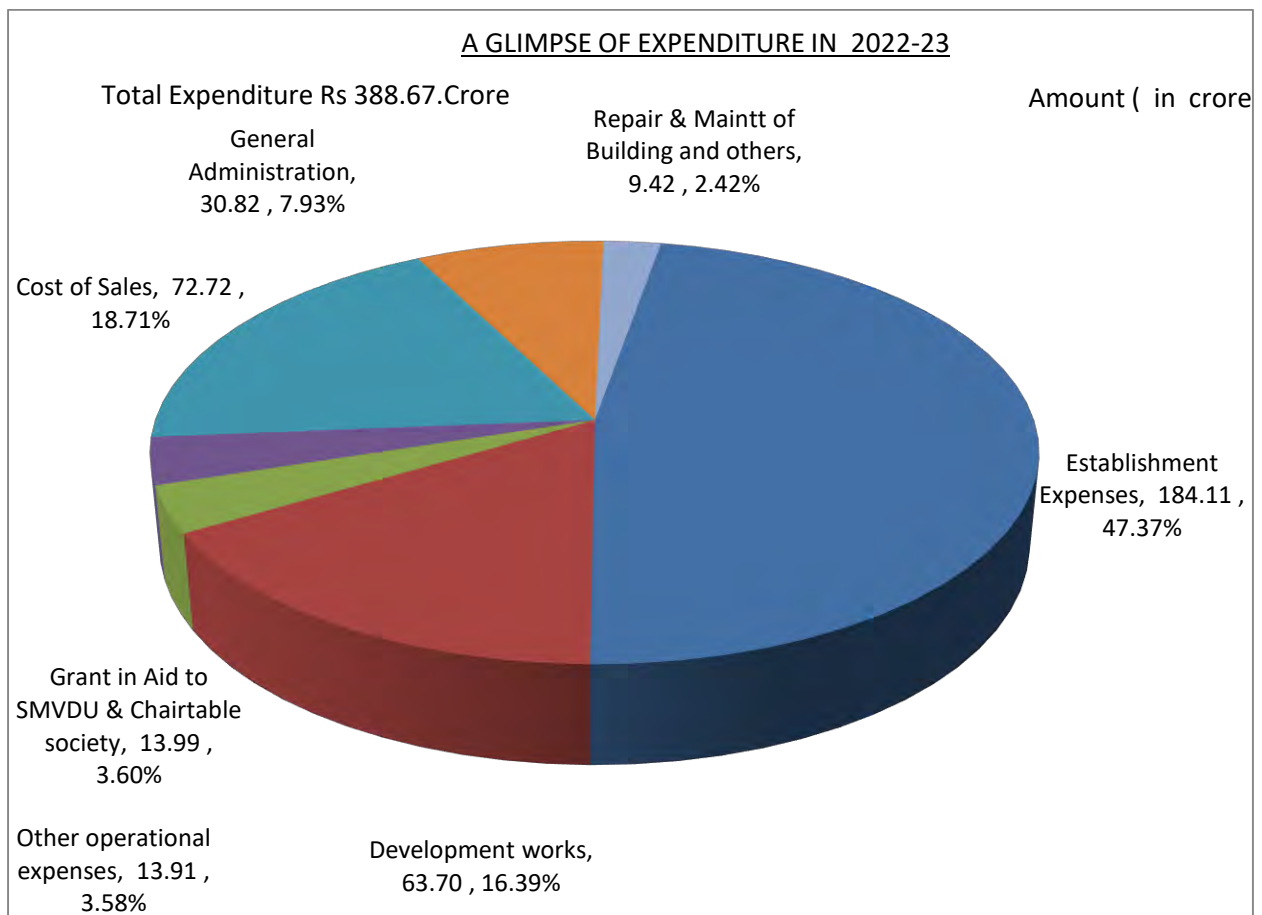
Income during FY 2022-23		
S.No.	Items	Amount (In crore)
1	Offerings/Donation	256.00
2	Interest accrued on deposits & dividends	121.08
3	Sales (Catering, Bhaint shop, Souvenir shops Gold/ Silver etc)	108.11
4	Rental Income including licence fee & Royalty	134.12
5	Misc. Receipts	2.14
	Total	621.45





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Expenditure during FY 2022-23		
S.No .	Items	Amount (In crore)
1	Establishment Expenses	184.11
2	Development works	63.70
3	<i>Other operational expenses</i>	13.91
4	<i>Grant in Aid to SMVDU & Charitable Society</i>	13.99
5	Cost of sales(Operational expenses)	72.72
6	General Administration	30.82
7	<i>Repair & Maintt of Building and others</i>	9.42
	Total	388.67





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8. Audit Report

The Statutory Audit for the FY 2022-23 has been completed by M/s S.R. Batliboi & Co. and same stands accepted by the Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB.



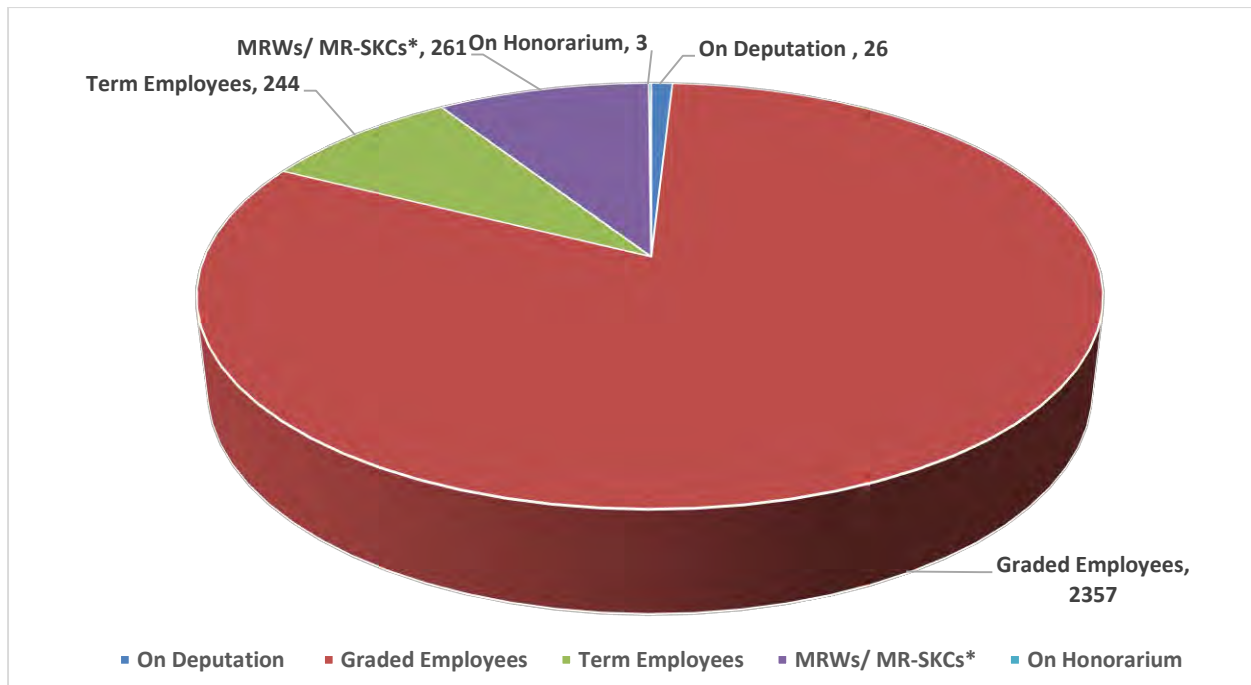
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9. Human Resource Management

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

- **Strength as on 31.03.2023**

Type of Employment	Manpower Strength
On Deputation	26
Graded Employees	2357
Term Employees	244
MRWs/ MR-ASSs*	261
On Honorarium	03
Total	2891

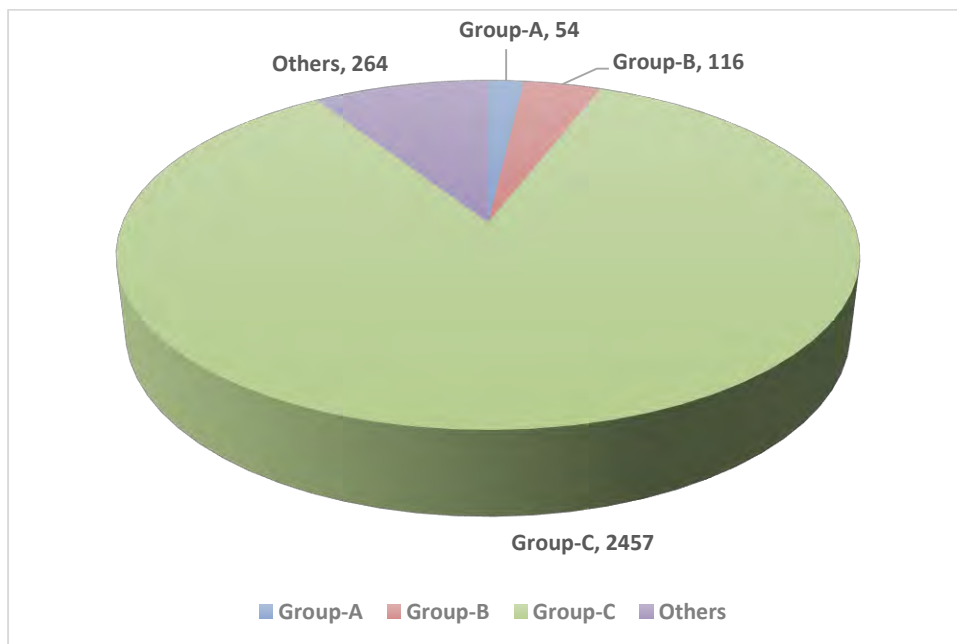


* Muster Roll Workers/Muster Roll Asstt. Swachhta Sahayaks



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Group wise Manpower Strength	
Group-A	54
Group-B	116
Group-C	2457
Others	264
Total	2821



- **During April 2022 to March 2023, 155 employees joined the Board under various categories as under:**

On Deputation : 09

On Term Employment : 146



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- During Financial Year 2022-23, 87 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	3	2	0	0	05
2	On Superannuation	4	3	50	0	57
3	On Resignation	1	2	4	0	07
4	Death	0	0	10	1	11
5	Other Reasons	0	2	5	0	07
Total		08	09	69	01	87

9.2 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 M/s Fab Tech Engineering, Delhi, M/s Safety Circle, Chandigarh, M/s Fouji Digital Studio, Nagrota, M/s Sophisticated Industrial Material Analytic Labs Pvt Ltd, M/s Anteaous, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), M/s FCI, M/s Space Age Power Pvt. Ltd. Srinagar 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.

9.3 Training Programmes conducted during 2022-23.

Category wise Training Programmes				
S. No	Name of Training Programme	Venue	No. of Participants	Training Conducted by
1	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	35	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal, MO
2	Female Health and Wellness	SGC	25	Dr. Divya Bhakri, MO
3	Maintenance of Laundry plants	Katra	10	M/s Fab Tech Engineering, Delhi
4	Maintenance of Laundry plants	Adhkuwari	10	M/s Fab Tech Engineering, Delhi
5	Basic Disaster Management	SGC	25	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
6	Construction Safety	SGC	25	M/s Safety Circle, Chandigarh
7	Basic F&B Service for VVIP	SGC	15	In-house
8	First Aid and Emergency Response	SGC	25	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO & Sh. Umesh Khajuria, Pharmacist
9	Wireless Communication and data transmission	Enroute Track	9	Sh. Mohinder Paul Sharma, Enforcement Sahayak
10	Basis Disaster Management	SGC	25	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant



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11	Basis Disaster Management	SGC	25	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
12	Photography Skills	SGC	6	M/s Fouji Digital Studio, Nagrota
13	Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	35	Sh. Imran Choudhary, Sh. Mayank, Sh. Uday Pratap Singh
14	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	35	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal,MO
15	Female Health and Wellness	SGC	24	Dr. Divya Bhakri, MO
16	Basic Life Support	SGC	25	Dr. Harbhajan Singh, MO & Sh. Ravi Kumar, NO
17	Basic Life Support	SGC	25	Dr. Harbhajan Singh,MO & Sh. Ravi Kumar, NO
18	Basis Disaster Management	SGC	25	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
19	Refresher Course on Basic Disaster Management	SGC	25	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
20	Basic Food Production	SGC	15	In-house
21	STP Installed at Bhawan	STP Bhawan	10	Sophisticated Industrial Material Analytic Labs Pvt Ltd
22	Software Oprs		16	In-house
23	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	25	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal,MO
24	Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	35	Sh. Imran Choudhary, Sh. Mayank, Sh. Uday Pratap Singh



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25	Training for Electricians	SGC	10	Learnet Skills for Life
26	STP Installed at Banganga	STP Banganga	10	Hitech Sweet Water Tech Pvt. Ltd.
27	Basis Disaster Management - Group 01	SGC	40	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
28	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	40	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal, MO
29	Female Health and Wellness	SGC	30	Dr. Divya Bhakri, MO
30	Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	39	Sh. Imran Choudhary, Sh. Mayank, Sh. Uday Pratap Singh
31	Basic Life Support	SGC	40	Dr. Harbhajan Singh, MO & Sh. Ravi Kumar, NO
32	First Aid and Emregency Response	SGC	40	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO & Sh. Umesh Khajuria, Pharmacist
33	Basis Disaster Management	SGC	40	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
34	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	40	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal, MO
35	Female Health and Wellness	SGC	40	Dr. Divya Bhakri, MO
36	Basic Life Support	SGC	40	Dr. Harbhajan Singh, MO & Sh. Ravi Kumar, NO
37	First Aid and Emergency Response	SGC	40	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO & Sh. Umesh Khajuria, Pharmacist
38	Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	50	Sh. Imran Choudhary, Sh. Mayank, Sh. Uday Pratap Singh



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39	Training programme on "Operation & Maintenance of Multipurpose Audio System"	SGC	17	Sh. Gagan Gupta - Ms Anteaus (LOA)
40	Basic Life Support	SGC	50	Dr. Harbhajan Singh, MO & Sh. Ravi Kumar, NO
41	First Aid and Emergency Response	SGC	50	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO & Sh. Umesh Khajuria, Pharmacist
42	Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	50	Sh. Imran Choudhary, Sh. Mayank, Sh. Uday Pratap Singh
43	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	40	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal, MO
44	Female Health and Wellness	SGC	40	Dr. Divya Bhakri, MO
45	Basis Disaster Management - (July training postponed to Sept)	SGC	40	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
46	Training Programme on Male Health & Wellness	SGC	40	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal, MO
47	Basis Disaster Management	SGC	40	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
48	Workshop on Fire Safety	Bhawan	35	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
49	Training Programme for Front Office Staff	SGC	30	FCI
50	Basic Life Support	SGC	40	Dr. Harbhajan Singh, MO & Sh. Ravi Kumar, NO
51	Orientation cum Training Programme for newly recruited Sr. Receptionist	SGC & other track locations	10	In-house staff



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52	Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	50	Sh. Imran Choudhary, Sh. Mayank, Sh. Uday Pratap Singh
53	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	50	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal,MO
54	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	50	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal,MO
55	Basis Disaster Management	SGC	50	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
56	Basic Life Support	SGC	50	Dr. Harbhajan Singh,MO & Sh. Ravi Kumar, NO
57	First Aid and Emregency Response	SGC	50	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO & Sh. Umesh Khajuria, Pharmacist
58	Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	35	Sh. Imran Choudhary, Sh. Mayank, Sh. Uday Pratap Singh
59	Sanitation and House Keeping	SGC	30	Sh. Imran Choudhary, Sh. Mayank, Sh. Uday Pratap Singh
60	Basis Disaster Management	SGC	50	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
61	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	25	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal,MO
62	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	50	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal,MO
63	First Aid and Emregency Response	SGC	50	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO & Sh. Umesh Khajuria, Pharmacist
64	Basic Life Support	SGC	50	Dr. Harbhajan Singh,MO & Sh. Ravi Kumar, NO
65	Basis Disaster Management	SGC	45	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh.



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66		SGC	40	Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
67	First Aid and Emergency Response	SGC	50	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO & Sh. Umesh Khajuria, Pharmacist
68		SGC	40	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO & Sh. Umesh Khajuria, Pharmacist
69	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	50	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal, MO
70		SGC	50	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal, MO
71	Basic Life Support	SGC	50	Dr. Harbhajan Singh, MO & Sh. Ravi Kumar, NO
72	Operations & Maintenance of Material Ropeway LTP installed at Siar Dabri	Material Ropeway Siar Dabri	5	M/s Space Age Power Pvt. Ltd. Srinagar
73	Trg. Prog. for the shortlisted Pujaris to perform the job of Kathawachak	SMVD Gurukul	6	Sh. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal, SMVDSB & his team members
74	Basic Life Support	SGC	35	Dr. Harbhajan Singh, MO & Sh. Ravi Kumar, NO
75	First Aid and Emergency Response	SGC	50	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO & Sh. Umesh Khajuria, Pharmacist
76		SGC	48	
77	Basis Disaster Management	SGC	40	Sh. Ravinder Koul, Manager, Sh. Neeraj Katoch, San.Sup. Sh. Rakesh Kr Sharma, SSE, Sh. Shashi Mohan, Jr. Assistant
78	Male Health and Wellness	SGC	40	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal, MO
79		SGC	40	Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal, MO
Total			2690	



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9.4 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 131 employees interalia from different categories viz. 5 nos. from Group-A, 9 nos. from Group-B and 117 nos. from Group-C as per recommendations of Departmental Promotion Committees.

9.5 Insurance assistance to SMVDSB Staff as a welfare measure

To mitigate the financial impact and help employees with insurance coverage as a staff welfare measure, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK UT has left no stone unturned to cover all its employees under the Group Personal Accident policy to protect them against the medical expenses incurred due to injury or death resulting from an accident during service.



Insurance assistance to employee of SMVDSB Staff as a staff welfare measure

Under the ambit of the provisions of this policy of SMVDSB insured through J&K Bank in association with IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited, a financial assistance of Rs. 30 Lakh has been provided to the family members of the deceased employee Lt. Kuldeep Chand who lost his life in the current year while in active service of SMVDSB.



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The cheque worth Rs. 30 Lakh was handed over to the family of the deceased by Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB, in the presence of Mahesh Sharma, FA/ Chief Accounts Officer, SMVDSB; Rajesh Gupta (Zonal Head, JK Bank); Pavwaan Shaah (State Head, ITGI) and Faheem Fayaz Zargar (SBU Head, ITGI).

9.6 **Chairman, SMVDSB grants appointment to next of kin on compassionate grounds**

To enable families of two deceased employees to tide over severe crisis arising due to untimely death of bread earners, Chairman, Shrine Board, (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) approved the appointment of their widows namely Smt. Savita Rajput W/o of Late Surjeevan Singh and Smt. Anita Devi W/o Late Kuldeep Chand in the Board invoking relaxation provision of Board's Compassionate Appointment Policy.

In this connection, CEO, SMVDSB, handed over the appointment orders to next of kin of the deceased employees on 20th October at Central Office, Katra. The CEO while encouraging the newly appointees, exhorted them to serve the devotees with utmost dedication and honesty. CEO while enlisting the host of initiatives taken for the staff welfare informed that as many as 37 candidates have been appointed on compassionate grounds as per policy in place.



CEO, SMVDSB handing over the appointment letter to next of kin on compassionate grounds measure



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9.7 CEO Shrine Board Extends Diwali Greetings

On behalf of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB extended his greetings to the staff of Shrine Board on the eve of Dhanteras and Diwali in a get together organized on 22nd October at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

On the occasion, the Chief Executive Officer extended his gratitude to the Chairman of Shrine Board 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. Besides, developmental initiatives in the form of additional accommodation for pilgrims as well as employees, he also enumerated various significant measures for the general welfare of the Shrine Board employees. which include enhancement of hardship allowance, restructuring of various cadres for latter promotional avenues, one-time relaxation in qualification for transition to MR to Term Employee & Term Employee to Graded structure, compassionate appointments and revision of scales.



Diwali Milan 2022

CEO also lauded the efforts made by the officers and staff of the Board at all levels in ensuring smooth facilitation of pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave shrine besides, appreciating their instrumental role in helping the Shrine. He underscored that with the determined efforts of employees and blessings of the Divine, yatra to the Holy Shrine has tremendously



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increased as compared to the previous two years which has been possible due to the all-round efforts. He stressed all employees to ensure greater facilitation of pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine, which have been widely acclaimed, adding that all of us need to redouble our efforts and no stone should be left unturned to provide best possible services to the pilgrims to make the pilgrimage a memorable experience for them.

Earlier, Dr. Sunil Sharma, Joint Chief Executive Officer enlisted the initiatives by the Shrine Board for the welfare of the staff in a very short span with wishes to the staff on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

9.8 Enhancement of Special Diwali Incentives and Hardship Allowance

A) Special Incentive in the form of Cash on the eve of Diwali Festival was introduced for its employees by the Board in the year 2003 and the practice continues till date.

Currently, all the employees (Term & Graded) are being paid cash incentive of Rs. 2000 each since the year 2011 while Muster Roll Workers/ Asstt. Swachhta Sahayaks are being paid cash incentive of Rs. 2500/- each since the year 2017 and no revisions have been made since then.

As the yatra figures remained promising this year and in recognition of the employees efforts in yatra management, the incentive was enhanced by Rs. 500 for every employee including MRWs/ MR-A.S.S with an additional financial implication of Rs 14.03 lakh.

B) Further, Hardship Allowance, as an incentive to the employees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board posted at Adhkuwari Sector & above, Sub-Store Siar Dabri and Free Langar Tarakote & above to offset the tough living condition, was initially introduced in the year 1997 and the rates have been revised from time to time vide different orders.



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Last such revision was made in the year 2014 and these rates were applicable for a period of 05 years. Accordingly, an internal exercise for revision of rates was carried out by the designated Committee. The committee examined the annual inflation from 2014 onwards in terms of Consumer Price Indices & other relevant factors and found that there has been an average increase of 46.04% based on DA & CPI index and recommended an increase of 45% in the existing Hardship Allowance.

The proposal was accepted by the Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Hon'ble Lt. Governor, J&K).

10. Religious Activities

10.1 Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organized during Chaitra Navratra.

Amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and performance of other religious ceremonies, Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji commenced 2nd April on the auspicious occasion of beginning of Chaitra Navratras. The Maha Yagya marks the onset of the nine-day long 'Chaitra Navratra' festival, which is being performed at the Holy Cave Shrine for peace, prosperity and health of humanity, will conclude with Purna Ahuti on Mahanavami.

Mr. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; other officers of the Shrine Board and a large number of pilgrims were present on the occasion. The Yagya ceremony was telecasted live on MH1 Shradha from 11.30 AM to 1.00 PM daily during Navratras.



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Decoration of Bhawan during 'Chaitra Navratra'

The Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Atka and the area surrounding it had been profusely decorated with flowers during the Navratras. The decorations were made with indigenous-foreign fruits and flowers, as well as huge reception doors and pandals, etc. were installed in the Bhawan Area. Likewise, the illumination of the Bhawan area with attractive and colourful lights was done. The breath taking and festive decorations were a special visual delight for pilgrims who trek about 12km from Katra to Bhawan.



Floral decoration of outer cave during 'Chaitra Navratra'



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The Shrine Board had also made elaborate arrangements for facilitating a large number of pilgrims who were expected to pay their obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum during Navratras. These arrangements include ensuring round the clock water and power supply all along the tracks leading to the Shrine, sanitation and sanitisation, availability of special “fast related” food at the Board’s Bhojanalaya etc. Besides, all the routes leading to the Holy Cave Shrine were fully maintained for smooth movement of pilgrims.

The CEO Shrine Board constantly reviewed and monitored the regulation of Yatra along with other arrangements all along the track and in the Bhawan Area and interacting with the pilgrims enquiring about the facilities made by the Shrine Board for their facilitation.

10.2 Shat Chandi Maha Yagya begins with onset of Navratra at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine amidst Grand Decorations

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya begins with onset of auspicious nine-day long ‘Sharad Navratras’ on 26th September at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, amidst grand decorations organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.



Shat Chandi Maha Yagya begins with onset of Navratra at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine



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The Maha Yagya which is being performed by chanting of Vedic hymns with other religious ceremonies at the holy cave shrine for peace, prosperity, health, safety and well being of mankind, conclude with Purna Ahuti on Mahanavami.

On this festive occasion, as per the directions of Hon'ble Chairman (Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT), Shrine Board provided free pony and battery car services to 'Divyang' devotees with special arrangements for their priority darshans at sanctum sanctorum by setting up of help desks for their convenience at various locations.



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

Noteworthy, RFID -based tracking and dispatching pilgrims in batches, a focused initiative of Shrine Board for Yatra Management to ensure their safety, comfort and ease of commutation has already been rolled out by the Shrine Board well before commencement of Navratra. In addition, erecting welcome gates, the Shrine Board unveiled special selfie-points for the first time en-route the Holy shrine for the pilgrims to capture fond memories of their visit during Navratra.



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Registration of Yatra through RFID

Like in the past, the Board also made elaborate arrangements to facilitate a much larger number of pilgrims during Navratras. These arrangements included round the clock water and power supply, sanitation and cleanliness, medicare and availability of special “fast related” food at the catering outlets of the Shrine Board.



Renowned artist reciting Bhajans during Atka Aarti

Grand decorations were made at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, Atka and the area surrounding it with indigenous-foreign fruits and flowers, as well as huge reception doors and pandals were installed in the Bhawan



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Area. Likewise, the illumination of the Bhawan area with attractive and colorful lights has also been done. Also, as was done in last year's Shardiya Navratras, this year's other special features of arrangements included Bhajan and Bhaint performances during morning and evening Atka Aarti by the renowned artists.

The CEO interacted with the pilgrims and enquired about the arrangements made by the Board to facilitate them. He expressed satisfaction at the arrangements put in place for the pilgrims at Bhawan and Katra.



Souvenir items provided to Yatries at selfie point

To honour the female in all forms and envisioning Navratra as a symbol for women empowerment, the female devotees who visited the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji during these auspicious Navratra are being distributed free souvenir items at a selfie point on Tarakote Marg. These souvenir items include sarees, suit pieces, chunni & Dupatta.

10.3 Artistically decorated Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan welcome Chaitra Navratra

Adorned with thousands of multi-hued flowers, the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji was all set to host pilgrims expected to visit the



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shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji in large numbers during the nine-day Navratras beginning from March 22.

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



Floral decoration of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan during Chaitra Navratra

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.

Arrangements have also been made for a ‘Shat Chandi Maha Yagya’ at the shrine. The ‘yagya’ was telecasted live from 11.30 AM to 12:30 PM every day during Navratra. In addition, ‘bhajan’ and ‘bhaint’ performances by the renowned artists during morning and evening Atka 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 existing capacity.



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Artistically decorated Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan during Chaitra Navratra

10.4 Shat Chandi Yagya concludes with Purna Ahuti at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Amidst the Vedic hymns, religious chants and performance of other religious ceremonies, Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji started w.e.f. 22nd March on the auspicious occasion of beginning of Chaitra Navratras.

The nine-day long 'Chaitra Navratra', performed at the Holy Cave Shrine for peace, prosperity and health of humanity, concluded with *Purna Ahuti* on Mahanavami.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; K. K. Sharma, Member, SMVDSB; Sudhir Bali, SDM Bhawan; other officers and staff of the Shrine Board, besides a large number of pilgrims were present on the occasion. The Yagya ceremony was telecasted live on MH1 Shradha from 11.30 AM to 12.30 PM daily during Navratras.



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SMVDSB has made grand decorations at Bhawan, Atka and the area surrounding it for the large number of pilgrims visiting during ongoing Navratras to pay obeisance at the Holy shrine of Maa Vaishno Devi ji. The decorations were made with indigenous-foreign fruits and flowers, as well as huge reception doors and pandals installed in the Bhawan Area.

Likewise, the illumination of the Bhawan area with attractive and colourful lights were done. The breath-taking and festive decorations were a special visual delight for pilgrims who trek about 12 km from Katra to Bhawan.



Shat Chandi Yagya started during Chaitra Navratra

The Shrine Board also made elaborate arrangements for facilitating a large number of pilgrims expected to pay their obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum during Navratras.

More than 3 lakh pilgrims visited the Bhawan during the nine days of Navratras.



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Shat Chandi Maha Yagya concludes with Purna Ahuti

Hi-tech Multipurpose Video Walls at various locations on the track for enabling dissemination of real time information to the visiting pilgrims in regard to the yatra added to the aesthetics of various locations on the track in these Navratras. Other special features were bhajan and bhaint performances by the renowned artists such as Gurdas Maan, Hansraj Raghuwanshi, Maithili Thakur and Lakhwinder Wadali etc during morning and evening Atka Aarti during these Navratras.

10.5 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board celebrates 37th Foundation Day

Performing of Pooja, Havan and Yagya marked the celebration of 37th Foundation Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on 30th August. These religious ceremonies were organised at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Katra, Jammu and other locations in which the staff of the Shrine Board and the pilgrims participated.

At Katra, the main function was held at Niharika Complex where special Pooja and Havan was performed. Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Hon'ble Member, SMVDSB; Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, other senior officers and staff of Shrine Board was present on the occasion.



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Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board celebrates 37th Foundation Day

11. Introduction of new facilities and services for pilgrims

11.1 Lt. Governor dedicated newly constructed Durga Bhawan to the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the newly constructed Durga Bhawan at the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji, on March 18.

The Lt Governor sought the blessings of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and dedicated the facility to the devotees.

Congratulating the entire team of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and everyone associated with the project, the Lt Governor said that the Bhawan with the capacity to accommodate 3000 pilgrims per day will provide ease and comfort to the seekers, besides ensuring effective crowd management.

“The Shrine Board has started various new initiatives for providing better facilities to the pilgrims. Spiritual and cultural heritage is being revived by building modern infrastructure and administration is committed to ensure that devotees on sacred pilgrimage are looked after well.



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Newly constructed Durga Bhawan at Bhawan

The LG said that it is our responsibility to enrich the traditional values and facilitate the spiritual journey of the devotees coming from across the country and abroad, especially those who are elderly, sick and specially-abled.

The salient features of Durga Bhawan was tabulated as under:

1.	Number of floor	G+4 RCC framed structure with terrace connected with the track.
2.	Covered Area	70,000sqft (approx)
3.	Project Cost (AAA Cost)	Rs. 41.88 crores (Including Civil Works, Electro-Mechanical, Soil Investigation, Fire Safety, Lockers, Furniture etc.)
3.	Design capacity in a day	4000 to 5000 Yatris (1500 to 1600 at a given time)
4.	Accommodation	
	Free Dormitories	28
	Paid Dormitories	17
	Suites	16
5.	Additional Facilities	04 Lifts, Common washrooms, Blanket store, Lockers, Bhojanalaya, Refreshment Kiosks.



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Newly inaugurated Durga Bhawan at Bhawan

Earlier, the Lt Governor paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum and prayed for happiness, peace and prosperity for all.



Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine



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11.2 Lt Governor inaugurated Tripti Bhojanalaya at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha on 20th February visited the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and inaugurated Tripti Bhojanalaya and Prasad Kendra cum Souvenir Shop at the holy shrine. He was accompanied by the Board members on the occasion.



Newly inaugurated Tripti Bhojanalaya at Bhawan

1.	Location	On the terrace of Durga Bhawan.
2	Dinning Capacity	106
3	Standing capacity	50
4	Covered Area	2,508 sqft (approx)
5	Additional Facilities	Varied cuisine, Digital Menu and Payments, Modular Kitchen,



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Prasad Kendra cum Souvenir Shop at Bhawan

11.3 Lt. Governor launched Panch Mewa Prasad.

Panchmewa Prasad was conceptualized and launched by the Shrine Board in the month of July, 2022 for the facilitation of devotees. The Board at its 70th Meeting held on 12.12.2022 desired that the quality of Panchmewa Prasad be improved after re-examining the ingredients and the packaging.

Accordingly, the composition and packaging of Panchmewa Prasad was examined at the level of the CEO and the following ingredients have been adopted:

S. No	Ingredients	Weight (per pouch)
1.	Almonds Giri (Mamra)	8 Gram (Whole)
2.	Cashew (W180) (Jumbo size)	7 Gram (Whole)
3.	Natural Afghan Raisins	10 Gram
4.	Walnut Giri Kashmiri (Extra Light Halves)	07 Gram (Deseeded & Diced)
5.	Diced Dry Coconut	3 Gram (Diced)



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Lt Governor launched 'Panch Mewa Prasad' for devotees

LG launched Panchmewa Prasad for devotees on July 28, which is available at Prasad Kendras cum Souvenir Shops Souvenirs of the Shrine Boards. The Premium variant of Panchmewa Prasad is highly appreciated by the pilgrims.



Prasad is available in three different packs of Rs. 25/-, Rs. 100/- and Rs. 300/- denomination.

11.4 SMVDSB adds Satellite Dental Clinic on the track for pilgrims

Taking another significant welfare step as per the directions of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT who is also Chairman, SMVDSB, for the employees and their families stationed at Sanjichatt and adjoining areas, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board established Satellite Dental Healthcare Clinic at Sanjichatt on 9th September by expanding the dental healthcare facilities now on the track, inaugurated by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB. Earlier in 2015, Shrine Board established "Maa Durga Dental Clinic " at Katra for the benefit of staff, pilgrims and community at large.



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This newly established clinic in the premises of Medical Unit, Sanjichhat will provide basic dental services like extraction, cleaning of teeth, filling and preventive dental care to the visiting pilgrims, staff and largely their families stationed at Sanjichatt and adjoining areas. It is well equipped with modern equipment and other allied facilities. Dental surgeons, technicians and other staff would be available to address the dental treatments. Provisions are also made to refer and treat patients at Katra dental clinic for specialized treatments.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO said that this newly established facility as per the directions of Hon'ble Chairman would benefit about 1200 employees and their families at large stationed at Sanjichatt and adjoining areas, besides, the visiting pilgrims.



SMVDSB adds Satellite Dental Clinic to healthcare

Besides, CEO thanked Dr. Inder Dhir, a dental surgeon serving in Canada and a devotee of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, for her support in setting up this dental clinic for the facilitation of pilgrims and staff. The clinic would be visited by Dental Surgeon on Tuesday and Wednesday of every 2nd and 4th week of month.



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12. Upcoming Project

12.1 Lieutenant Governor lays e-foundation of Sky Walk, infra projects for Vaishno Devi Shrine

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on 28th July laid the e-foundation of Yatri Queue Management System (Sky Walk), Gayatri Bhavan & other infra projects of SMVDSB from Raj Bhavan.

The Lt Governor, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on the occasion observed that the Shrine Board is taking every measure to provide better facilities and modern amenities to make the pilgrimage convenient and hassle-free. "The Government is already working on the ambitious project to develop a religious tourism circuit to strengthen the links between pilgrimage and local economy", he added.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board members, Mahamandleshwar Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj; Dr Ashok Bhan; Kul Bhushan Ahuja; Dr. Neelam Sareen; Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge) and Raghu K Mehta attended the occasion.

The Yatri Queue Management System (Sky Walk) would be constructed at Bhawan and Gayatri Bhawan, staff residential accommodation

LG said that the Yatri Queue Management System (Sky Walk) is one of the focused initiatives of the Shrine Board for Yatra Management as this facility shall ensure safety, comfort and ease of commutation of the devotees.

"Yatri Queue Management System has been conscientiously curated by the Shrine Board with the intent to decongest traffic at Bhawan for the devotees visiting the shrine to ensure their easy crossover and to overcome the problem of multidirectional movement of devotees".



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Conceptualized with an emphasis on safety and facility development, the Sky Walk which will be executed through CPWD with wooden flooring will be 20 feet above the track level, 200 meter in length with two rescue areas having provision of seating arrangements for senior citizens & ladies. In addition, two waiting halls with washroom facilities are being constructed along the Sky Walk to accommodate around 150 devotees.

He also reviewed ongoing project of Durga Bhawan laid e-foundation stone for the construction of staff residential accommodation at Nomain, Katra.

The complex to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 7.62 crore will have 16 two-room sets and 28 single-room sets with attached kitchen and bathroom, underground parking space, provision of two lifts and fire safety and shall be completed in a fixed time period of 12 months.

In addition, the issues related to remodeling of Parvati Bhawan, RFID and Slope Stabilization were also deliberated upon and necessary instructions were issued by the Lt Governor to the Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB.

12.2 **SMVDSB initiates work on Shankaracharya Temple after three decades.**

The work of Shankaracharya Temple which was initiated in the year 1990 and got stopped subsequently owing to several issues has been spearheaded by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board after three decades to complete the Shrine structure as part of its efforts to develop the religious circuit in Katra and surrounding areas.

In this regard, a team of Shrine Board with technical experts comprising Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, Shrine Board; Anshul Garg, CEO; Navneet Singh, Addl. CEO; K.N Rai, Technical Advisor; Vishwajeet Singh, Dy. CEO, Prof. Mandeep Singh, School of Planning and Architecture, Executive Engineers, SMVDSB alongwith the team and



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other concerned officers of Board visited the site on March 2, and reviewed the condition of the temple located on the hillock at the eastern side of the Katra town. Some local stakeholders were also present at the site.



Visit of team of Shrine Board & technical expert to Shankaracharya Temple

Noteworthy that, due directions for rejuvenation and development of temple complex have been issued by the Hon'ble LG, JK UT who is also the Chairman of SMVDSB, in the interest of pilgrims and overall development of Katra and adjacent areas.

The Shrine Board aspires to establish a grand Shivling along with the renovation of the building premises side-by-side taking care of the ecology of the area. Besides laying of tiles on the track leading to the Shankaracharya Temple and the installation of LED lights with poles, the condition of the access road/ track leading to the temple will be improved. In addition, basic infrastructure development shall include provision of viewpoints enroute, adequate, safe and clean drinking water, hygienic food, medical and sanitation facilities.



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13. Meetings of the Board during the year

13.1 LG chairs 69th meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the meeting of newly constituted Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, at Raj Bhavan on 12th April.

The meeting was attended by all members of SMVDSB – Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj; Baleshwar Rai; Dr Ashok Bhan; Kul Bhushan Ahuja; Dr. Neelam Sareen; K K Sharma; Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge) and Raghu K. Mehta.

The Lt Governor, who is also the Chairman of SMVDSB, while welcoming the members of the reconstituted board, complimented the efforts put-in by former members and lauded their commitment and valuable contributions.

During the meeting, the Board discussed and approved various proposals related to facilities for the devotees to make their pilgrimage hassle-free.



69th meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board held on 12th April 2022.

The new members of the Shrine Board gave their valuable suggestions for developing and continually upgrading the pilgrim-centric facilities.



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“Efforts are being made to create modern facilities like skywalk, new Durga Bhawan, spiritual theme park and services such as RFID tag for devotees within a stipulated time-frame for the pleasant divine experience”, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor while reviewing the ongoing projects, directed for adhering to the timelines for the completion of all projects including Durga Bhawan. With the aim of avoiding congestion at Bhawan, inter-alia due to criss-crossing of pilgrims, it was decided to have multidirectional flow through measures such as “Yatra Queue Management (Sky Walk)” which would be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.9.89 cr.

The project to be executed through CPWD shall have a total length of 160-170 m approx. and width of 2.5 m with two rescue areas. During the discussion regarding developing a Spiritual Theme Park in or around Katra, the Lt Governor observed that having such a facility would prolong the stay of pilgrims, giving a fillip to the town’s economy. The Board asked the CEO to take expeditious steps for early start of the Theme Park.

A brief appraisal of peripheral institutions like SMVDNS Hospital, SMVD College of Nursing, SMVD Gurukul and SMVD Sports Complex was presented in the meeting. The board expressed deep satisfaction over the management initiatives and functioning of these institutions towards welfare of the public at large. The Lt Governor emphasized that the board may not be driven by profit considerations, yet, adequate steps must be undertaken to make these institutions self-sustaining.

The Board expressed satisfaction over the recently augmented Pilgrim Centric facilities of Niharika Complex of Shrine Board at Katra and approved additional construction of staff accommodation at Katra and Adhkuwari. Reviewing the proposals relating to Slope Stabilization Project, the Lt Governor directed that rather than going in a phased manner, the entire stabilization work must be duly assessed and



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executed in one go. The Annual Greening Plan for the year 2022-23 was also reviewed and approved by the Board.

The proposal of the passenger ropeway between Katra and Adhkuwari for the benefit of pilgrims, particularly the senior citizens, was also discussed in the meeting. The board expressed a unanimous view that this added facility for pilgrims would certainly be a boon for senior citizens and specially abled pilgrims and would benefit the local businesses and entrepreneurs.

While approving the proposals relating to Operation & Maintenance of Passenger Ropeway through M/s Garaventa AG, Switzerland and M/s Damodar Ropeways Construction Co. (P) Ltd, Kolkata, the Board asked the CEO to ensure that there is no let up as regards to the safety of passengers and routine safety audits be conducted as per SOP.

The board reviewed the Master Plan of Bhawan area, various underway projects, yatra statistics & trends and emphasized for timely completion of augmenting the facilities for pilgrims.

Earlier, Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, SMVD Shrine Board gave a presentation on the to-date status of different activities and action taken in regard to implementation of various decisions of the Board taken at the previous meetings.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Navneet Singh, Additional Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB and other senior officers of SMVDSB also attended the meeting.

13.2 LG chairs 70th meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board;

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired 70th meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) on 12th of December, 2022 at Raj Bhavan, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by all members of SMVDSB – Mahamandleshwar Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj; Baleshwar



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Rai; Dr Ashok Bhan; Kul Bhushan Ahuja; Dr Neelam Sareen; K K Sharma; Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge) and Raghu K. Mehta. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary and Sh. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board were also present



70th meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board held on 12th Dec. 2022.

The Lt Governor, who is the chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, launched various initiatives to provide diverse facilities to the pilgrims and devotees.

He also ascertained progress of the work for ease of devotees and laid emphasis on timely completion of all projects. On the occasion, the Lt Governor launched a Cottage Policy, Aarti Darshan Policy, 1st edition of 'Panchang Calendar-2023' of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.



Launch of 'Panchang Calendar-2023' of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board



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He laid the foundation stone of accommodation facilities for Shrine Board's employees at Adhkuwari & Banganga and launched multiple donation facilities for the pilgrims.

Further, the Board discussed, ratified, gave in principle approvals for a total of 46 agenda items. The Board members were also presented with a compliance report on the directions passed for short term and long term measures initiated for yatra regulation and crowd management.

The CEO, SMVDSB apprised the actions initiated on diverse fronts for hassle free pilgrimage including issuance and verification of RFID cards, effective crowd management, augmentation of holding areas, plans for decongestion of the entire track, separation of entry, exit routes at Bhawan and surveillance through dedicated CCTV network of over 500 cameras.

The Lt Governor directed the CEO to take all necessary measures for the safety and security of the pilgrims. Besides underscored that all aspects should be taken into account for the construction of Passenger Ropeway between Tarakote Langar and Sanjichhat.

Safety, convenience and ease of the devotees visiting the shrine remains the top priority of the Shrine Board for which emphasis was given on 24x7 monitoring on pilgrimage through RFID and CCTV cameras.

To reform and enhance functions of various departments at the shrine, the Board approved implementation of Enterprises Resource Planning (ERP) software through TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) to provide an integrated digital solution.

The Board approved the establishment of New Registration Counter at Railway Station, Katra to decongest the existing registration counters and provide convenience and comfort to the pilgrims. The Lt Governor also issued directions for building a state-of-the-art Registration centre.



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The Board appreciated and decided to continue initiatives undertaken on a pilot basis during the Shardiya Navratras for the benefit of Divyangjan. The facilities will include provision of complimentary pony and battery car services, special priority darshans at sanctum sanctorum during all upcoming Navratras.

The meeting also decided to invite doctors willing to serve the devotees at the Shrine on volunteer basis through advertisement and wide publicity.

While taking the appraisal of ongoing Projects at Bhawan under Master Plan- Durga Bhawan & Skywalk, the Lt Governor directed to expedite the work.

The Lt Governor emphasized that every effort must be made to complete all the ongoing projects in an expedient manner. The Board impressed for making maximum use of green technologies, rain water harvesting and solar power harnessing.

Discussion was also held on slope stabilization and other upcoming projects including redevelopment of Parvati Bhavan and separate exit track from the Bhawan and remodeling of Manokamna area. The Board also ratified several initiatives for welfare of Board's employees and creation of new posts for the operationalization of Durga Bhawan. Approval was also accorded to enhancement in financial assistance for the marriage of girls and grant of scholarship for meritorious students of ex-Baridar families. The Board took appraisal of SMVD Charitable Society and approved grant in aids and financial assistance by the Board to educational institutions. During the meeting, the Board took note of numerous steps aimed at rejuvenation of the Banganga and asked the CEO to prioritize such initiatives.

The Board also desired to complete the construction of Shankaracharya Temple near Katra in an expedient manner by resolving all pending issues with the help of concerned stakeholders.



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14. Important events during the year

14.1 LG Sinha attends the Foundation Day celebration of SMVD Shrine Board and Gurukul's Annual Day

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the celebration of 37th Foundation day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and 12th Annual day of SMVD Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra on 31st August at the Matrika Auditorium of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor laid the foundation stone of various projects of Shrine Board and Gurukul, New Dining cum Accommodation Complex at SMVD Gurukul and Nature Interpretation Centre & Seed Bank at Kunia Nursery, Panthal.

Taking another significant welfare step for the employees of the Shrine Board, the Lt Governor announced 45% enhancement in hardship allowance for 1450 employees posted at Higher Altitudes.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor congratulated all the Members, stakeholders and everyone associated with the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul for the Foundation Day. The Lt Governor said that the Gurukul is a perfect medium to develop the future leaders who will be well accustomed with the Modern, Traditional, and Spiritual Education.

From the last 12 years, the Gurukul is paving the way for the strong spiritual-cultural foundation of J&K. The affiliation of Gurukul with Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi is an important step towards revival of Sanskrit in J&K and connecting students with science and spirituality, he added.

At Gurukul, we must encourage original ideas among the students and nurture their mind so that they can learn higher values of life and dedicate them towards nation building. It should be our endeavor that necessary changes should be made in the syllabus as per the National Education Policy, the Lt Governor urged the stakeholders.



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The Lt Governor also highlighted the measures undertaken to cater to the needs of 8-9 lakh devotees visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine every month which includes the work on Sky Walk which will be completed by December.



LG attends the Foundation Day celebration of SMVD Shrine Board and Gurukul's Annual Day

Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Member, SMVDSB and Chairman of the Governing Council observed that during a short span of 12 years since its establishment in 2010, the Gurukul has earned a name in imparting quality education in Sanskrit and other subjects and exuded confidence that very soon it will emerge as a centre of excellence.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, in his remarks acknowledging the unparalleled emotional connect with the Shrine lauded the achievements achieved so far and emphasised for the pleasant and hassle free experience of the visiting pilgrims.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, in his welcome address highlighted the initiatives taken under the guidance of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor for facilitation of pilgrims initiated in a very short period by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board like Mobile App, Home Delivery of Pooja Prasad / Panch Mewa Prasad, round the clock Call Centre for facilitation of yatris, installation of Hi-tech Video Walls, construction of Durga Bhawan, e-library, Yatri Queue Management (Sky walk), Underground Cabling Project and RFID Project.



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He also thanked the Chief Secretary for extending full support to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board as and when required.

He also briefed the gathering on the efforts being made for continuing improvements in the functioning of Gurukul.



Students performing play on Annual Day

Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal of the Gurukul, presented Annual Report of the institution while students of the Gurukul staged an impressive Sanskrit play “Bharat Vijayam”, on the theme of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahatosav.



LG inaugurating Photo exhibition



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Lt Governor felicitated the meritorious students who have excelled in academics and various other extra-curricular activities during the past one year.

The Lt Governor released a book “Gurukulodayam” tracing the foundation and evolution of Gurukul- an institute of Sanskrit Learning. He also inaugurated a Photo exhibition capturing Pilgrim Centric services and social support interventions of the Shrine Board since 1986.

14.2 Mahamandleshwar visits allied Institutes of SMVDSB; interacts with faculty, students of SMVD Gurukul

Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Member of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council for the Gurukul, visited SMVD Gurukul. This was the first visit of Mahamandleshwar to Gurukul after being nominated as Chairman of the Governing Council of the SMVD Gurukul.

Mahamandleshwar interacted with the students of the Gurukul. Congratulating the students for their laudable achievements and keeping the tradition alive by choosing traditional ways of studies which teaches “Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah”, he asked them to work hard and optimally benefit from the facilities made available by the Board for imparting top quality education at the Gurukul. He said that he visited many Gurukuls established across India but facilities being provided at SMVD Gurukul are outstanding. He congratulated the Hon’ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT who is also Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for nurturing such institutes which has kept alive the Vedic and Sanatan traditions in the modern era.

Mahamandleshwar also inspected the classrooms, hostel and other facilities during the visit and imparted valuable propositions for further betterment of the facilities, wherever required. He also attended evening Aarti alongwith students of Gurukul.



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Mahamandleshwar visits allied Institutes of SMVDSB interacts with faculty, students of SMVD Gurukul

Earlier, Mahamandleshwar visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH) in Kakryal. He inspected the state-of-the-art facilities at the Superspeciality Hospital established by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in association with Narayana Health to provide tertiary level medical care services. The member was informed by the CEO that the association of Narayana and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Board has been very fruitful in providing quality health care at affordable rates in the region and the Hospital has touched the lives of many people of Jammu & Kashmir apart from a large number of pilgrims who availed healthcare services during their Yatra to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.



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The member also visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing within the complex which is yet another significant contribution of the Shrine Board towards the development of Katra and its adjoining area.

14.3 **Governing council reviews working of SMVD Gurukul**

The 30th meeting of the Governing Council of Shri Mata Vaishno on 4th July in which a number of important decisions were taken for the future growth of this institution as a centre of excellence.

Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Member of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council for the Gurukul, chaired the meeting, which was attended by Mr. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Mr. Navneet Singh, Additional CEO; Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri; Dr. Jagdish Chander Mehra, Joint CEO, SMVDSB and Administrator of Gurukul; Mr. Mahesh Sharma, FA/Chief Accounts Officer; Sh. Gopal Dass Sharma, Head Pujari, Bhawan; and Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal of the Gurukul.



Governing council reviews working of SMVD Gurukul

GC was informed that the Gurukul has not only achieved 100 percent pass percentage but two students were awarded the prestigious Vakratund Shukul Swaran Padak (Gold Medal) and Shrimati Shashikala Sharma Swaran Padak (Gold Medal) by the Chancellor, Sampurnanand



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Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi. It was also informed that Vakratund Shukul Swaran Padak (Gold Medal) has been retained by the SMVD Gurukul since 2012 onwards. Besides, 12 students of Gurukul secured 1st Position in the State Level Competition (Shastriya Sparda) organized by Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan in the month of March, 2022 and selected for “Akhil Bhartiya Shastriya Sparda” wherein these students secured 2nd and 3rd Position and won Silver and Bronze. In addition, four students of class 10th and an equal number of students of Class 12th have been felicitated by “Chairman Award” by the Lt. Governor, JK-UT, in the Lamp Lighting Ceremony of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Kakryal held on 25.05.2022.

Increase in intake capacity of the students from 20 to 30 in Class 6th during the session 2023-24 also deliberated and while taking a holistic view, it was decided that the same shall be done after taking comprehensive review of all aspects.

The Chairman directed the CEO for engagement of Counsellor in SMVD Gurukul who may help students overcome behavioral problems, improve their time management, establish academic goals, resolve interpersonal problems with other students and work through personal problems.

14.4 SMVD Gurukul participates in ‘Rashtriya Gurukul Sanghoshti’

To commensurate changes by assessing the needs to inculcate significant insight into the awareness about various developments required for the pernicious modernization of the pristine education framework in Gurukul and for an educational exposure, ten students with three faculty members along with Chief Executive officer, Anshul Garg, Jt. Chief Executive Officer, Dr. JC Mehra and other concerned officers of SMVDSB attended the “National Gurukul Symposium” being organised from 04th to 06th of November at Veda Vijnana Gurukulam, Bengaluru (Karnatka).



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Eminent dignitaries and progressive specialists Suresh Soni, Akhil Bharteeya Karyakarini Sadasya, RSS; Padamshree Prof. H.R. Nagendra Vice Chancellor, SVYASA University, Bengaluru Tippeswami, Chairman Janaseva Vishwastha Mandali; Prof. Shrinivasa Varkhedi Vice Chancellor, Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi and Anshul Garg, CEO graced the inaugural session/day of the symposium besides students, faculty and other distinguished persons.

Students and faculty of more than 250 Gurukuls not only from India but across the world from countries like Ireland, Kuwait, Indonesia, Vietnam and Nepal attended the symposium aimed at exchanging of ideas and enter into dialogues regarding Gurukul education in the modern era, its relevance, public perception and the current challenges being faced by it.



SMVD Gurukul participates in Rashtriya Gurukul Sanghoshti

The speakers during the inaugural session mainly emphasized on defining elements of the educational context and proactive planning in terms of providing a systematic way of education at 'Gurukuls' by integrating them with the rapid innovation in education techniques, overview of the current system with the proposed betterments.



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Besides, reiterated that Gurukuls, if combined with current technology and requirements, should also include various courses and subjects relating to information technology as we transcend from physical to virtual and the next generation of students needs to be well equipped with these subjects.

Addressing the gathering after the presentation of short documentary on SMVD Gurukul, the Chief Executive Officer said that from the last 12 years the Gurukul is paving the way to develop the students with high moral values well accustomed with the Modern, Traditional, and Spiritual Education for the strong spiritual-cultural foundation of J&K and the affiliation of Gurukul with Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi are some of the important step towards revival of Sanskrit in J&K and connecting students with science and spirituality. Under the constant guidance and directions of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JKUT Sh. Manoj Sinha) and close monitoring of Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Member, SMVDSB and Chairman of the Governing Council, the Gurukul has earned a name not only at regional level but has proved its metal at National level as well by showing its excellence in imparting quality education and exuded confidence that very soon it will emerge as a centre of excellence. Appreciating the role of organisers of National Gurukul Symposium at Bengaluru, the CEO said such platforms are vital to exchange the experiences of functioning of different Gurukuls and provide an opportunity to exhibit talent of students. He called upon the organisers to plan out such more events in near future for the better understanding and chalking out pragmatic approach for the smooth running of Gurukuls. For this purpose, SMVD Gurukul is always ready to extend any cooperation, he assured. He also said that we must not only strive to nurture but also seek to preserve the country's rich cultural heritage and legacy based on



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Sanskrit and vedic education in a well-coordinated manner in tandem to become Vishwa Guru once again in next 25 years which is being recognised as Amrit Kaal.

SMVD Gurukul also put up an exhibition stall depicting the genesis and achievement of Gurukul, since its inception. At the exhibition stall, photo exhibition, video, pictorial presentation of Gurukul, Panchmeva Parsad, book on evolution of Gurukul alongwith silver coins of different denominations are displayed. Dignitaries and a number of participants from different states visited the stall and appreciated the efforts of the Shrine Board for running Gurukul in an efficient manner. An impressive musical presentation including Sarswati Vandna and Bhajans in Sanskrit by the students of SMVD Gurukul received huge appreciation and repeated cheers from the audience present on the occasion.

14.5 Lt. Governor inaugurated North Zone Youth Festival 'KSHITIJ'

The Lt Governor inaugurated the North Zone Youth Festival 'KSHITIJ' at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra on 20th February.

The 3-day North Zone Youth Festival was organized by SMVDSB in collaboration with Central Sanskrit University. Sanskrit scholars of 10 institutes from 7 States/UTs participated in this unique Sanskrit Scholars festival.

The Lt Governor welcomed the Sanskrit scholars participating in the festival and exhorted them to contribute constructively in nation building.

He further added that North Zone Youth Festival will lead to a better understanding of the various aspects of Sanskrit Studies and knowledge system and efforts are being made to increase access of students to make it language of common man.



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Inauguration of North Zone Youth Festival 'KSHITIJ'

He lauded the efforts of various organizations and stakeholders like Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan and Mahant Rohit Shastri in promoting Sanskrit language in the UT.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Katra along with various campuses of Central Sanskrit University and Adarsh Maha Vidyalaya of Sanskrit, situated in J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand participated in this mega event for the first time for the promotion of Sanskrit Language in J&K UT.

14.6 **SMVD Gurukul holds 31st Governing Council Meeting**

The 31st meeting of the Governing Council of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka was held on February 10 at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

The meeting presided by Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Member of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council for the Gurukul, was attended by Anshul Garg, CEO Shrine Board; Navneet Singh, Additional CEO; Prof Y.K. Mishra; Dr Jagdish Chander Mehra, Joint CEO,

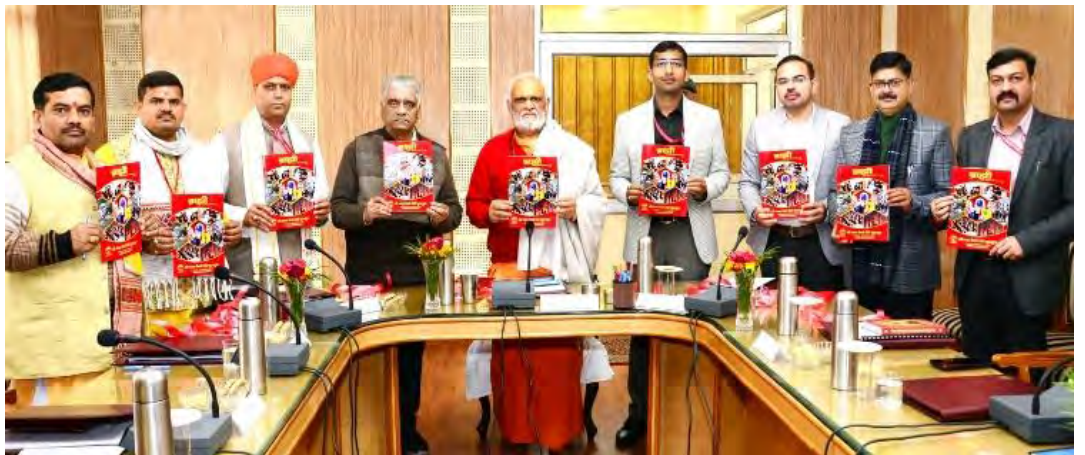


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SMVDSB and Administrator of Gurukul; Mahesh Sharma, FA/Chief Accounts Officer; Gopal Dass Sharma, Head Pujari, Bhawan; Dr Dhananjay Mishra, Principal; and Dr. Devendra Rijal, Vice Principal of the Gurukul.

The Chairman and other Members of the Governing Council while expressing satisfaction at the functioning of the Gurukul emphasized the need for making continuing endeavors to develop it as a centre of excellence. The meeting also noted the outstanding achievements of the students of SMVD Gurukul in academics and co-curricular activities and participation of faculty and students for broadening their horizon 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 2023-24 also finalized the arrangements for organizing 3-day North Zone Youth Festival from 20th to 22nd of February in collaboration with Central Sanskrit University. The council observed that the festival shall provide a learning platform to the students of SMVD Gurukul to showcase their talent & skills from their counterparts of other institutes besides, serving as an important medium to spread joy, promote Sanskrit awareness and protect our traditional and cultural heritage.



Launch of annual school magazine of SMVD Gurukul



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The Governing Council observed that as per the new guidelines of NEP- 2020, the age criteria of the curricular and pedagogical structure have been reconfigured for the different stages of admission. In line, the age criteria for the applicants / students desirous of seeking admission in class 6th of SMVD Gurukul has been revised to 10-12 years from session 2023-24. Besides, to bring parity with the CSU in all respects, GC approved revision of the daily time table, weekly off and syllabus of SMVD Gurukul.

The Council also observed that planning and creation of NavgrahVatika on Tarakote Marg not only helps students in adding to their knowledge of plants but is a very important source of energy if planted anywhere as these plants represent different planets of celestial forces.

GC also approved Internship programme for candidates obtaining Shastri degree from SMVD Gurukul and their engagement as Prashikshu in SMVDSB for the contribution in the Pujan rituals besides engagement of Yoga expert in SMVD Gurukul for boosting physical and mental health of the students.

The Meeting also desired that alumni meet of the Gurukul should be planned to benefit from their skills and experience besides, to devise a roadmap for 5 years of the functioning of the SMVD Gurukul and wayforward for developing this institution as a centre of excellence for providing top quality education to the students.

The Governing Council while releasing the Annual School Magazine "Brahmi" tracing the achievement and contribution of the students and faculty during the year appreciated the efforts stating that a wonderful platform has been given to these young students to showcase their talent as writers and express themselves into a conglomeration.

Earlier, Mahamandleshwar visited SMVD Gurukul and inspected the Construction Work-in-Progress of New Dinning cum Accommodation Complex. He also interacted with the students and faculty and enquired



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from them about their daily activities. Besides, the Mahamandleshwar felicitated Master Varun Sharma, student of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul for having secured first position in the entire University, in the annual examination of class 8th conducted in 2022 by Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyala, Varanasi. He congratulated the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT who is also Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for nurturing such institutes which has kept alive the Vedic and Sanatan traditions in the modern era.



Mahamandleshwar felicitating Master Varun Sharma, student of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul

14.7 LG attends Lamp Lighting Ceremony of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing; Dedicates new general ward of Narayana Hospital to public

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony of 5th & 6th Batch of B.Sc. Nursing students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN) at Matrika Auditorium of SMVDU on 25th May.

Sh. Baleswar Rai, Dr. Neelam Sareen, Sh. Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd.) Judge, Sh. Raghu K. Mehta – Members of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Dr. Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU were present on the occasion which also marked the 4th Annual Day function of SMVDCoN.



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Inauguration of new 45 bedded ward at SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital.

Earlier, on his arrival at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, the Lt Governor inaugurated a new 45-bedded General Ward of the hospital equipped with latest medical equipments and dedicated the facility to public.

During his address at the Lamp Lighting Ceremony of SMVDCoN, the Lt Governor congratulated the students embarking on a new journey, and urged them to improve the quality of life and quality of care with dedication and compassion.

Highlighting the efforts of the Government to transform the health sector in J&K, the Lt Governor said that in the last three years, we have made adequate investment for medical education and training to protect and promote people's health.

He observed that the lamp lighting and oath-taking ceremony is a perfect tribute to "Florence Nightingale"- the founder of modern nursing and congratulated the management, faculty and staff of College of Nursing on the occasion.

The Lieutenant Governor also recalled many initiatives taken by the Shrine Board including online darshan, home delivery of Prasad, Call Centre, E-Library, Hi-tech Video Wall, Helicopter Service, Battery Car Service, Passenger Ropeway, Pony Service, besides water conservation and sanitation measures.



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Group photo of students and faculty of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing during Lamp Lighting Ceremony.

The projects like Durga Bhavan, Sky Walk, RFID Project, Theme Park, and Shankaracharya Temple will make the pilgrimage of devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi more convenient and memorable, he added.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor presented awards to the best-performing students of SMVDCoN and SMVD Gurukul who excelled in academics and co-curricular activities during the past two years. Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge), Member of the Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of the Nursing College, in his welcome address highlighted the achievements of the College in academics and extra-curricular activities, besides 100% placement of the passing out students in various renowned institutions.

Mukesh Singh, ADGP, Jammu, Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu were also present on the occasion.

14.8 SMVD College of Nursing holds 41st GB meeting

The 41st meeting of the Governing Body of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, was held on November 16. The meeting chaired by Maj Gen S K Sharma (Retd), Chairman, SMVDCoN, Governing Body and Member Shrine Board; was attended by Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr



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V Verma, Dean, SMVDU; Dr Sunil Sharma, Joint CEO of Shrine Board and Administrator of SMVDCoN, and; Dr Shailla Cannie, Principal SMVDCoN.

During meeting appraisals of the functioning of the College and way forward for developing this institution as a centre of excellence for providing top quality nursing education to the students were deliberated. The GB observed that COVID-19 pandemic has re-affirmed the importance of an adequate number of qualified and skilled human resources in health. Keeping in view the heightened demand for medical professionals, a proposal for enhancement of seats from 60 to 80 for B.Sc (Nursing) programme was placed before the GB. While taking a holistic view, it was decided that the same shall be done in a phased manner after taking comprehensive review of all aspects. Besides, the GB took stock of the construction of additional infrastructure and faculty required for upgradation.



Governing Body meeting of SMVD College of Nursing.

The meeting also reviewed the pace of construction of the link road to the various buildings planned for the college and other infrastructure and expressed satisfaction. The GB was informed that the infrastructure will come up as per the envisaged timelines in sync with the emerging requirements.



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The GB while reviewing the progress on 100% placement of passed out students being undertaken by the Placement Cell of the SMVDCoN showed their satisfaction and reiterated to continue a robust mechanism of campus placement so that maximum number of students of the college find job placements in the renowned health institutions within and outside the country. The GB also underscored the need for completing all the required pre-placement activities in future strictly as per the envisaged timelines.

Other matters that came up for discussion in the meeting included the community programs / community-based study projects by the SMVDCoN students included Immunization Day, International Nursing Day, National Nutrition Day and World Heart Day etc. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.

14.9 SMVD College of Nursing holds Governing Body meeting; finalise the arrangements for organizing Nursing Fest “Tarang-2022”

42nd meeting of the Governing Body of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, was held on 19th September at Kalika Dham, Jammu to discuss way forward for developing this institution as a centre of excellence for providing top quality nursing education to the students in consonance with the emerging requirements of healthcare system.

The meeting chaired by Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd.) Judge, Chairman, SMVDCoN, Governing Body and Member Shrine Board; was attended by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr. Shakti Kumar, Gupta, Director AIIMS, Jammu; Dr. Sharda Potukuchi, Associate Professor, Head of Biotechnology and Dean Academic Affairs, SMVDU; Dr Sunil Sharma, Joint CEO of Shrine Board and Administrator of SMVDCoN and Dr Shaila Cannie, Principal SMVDCoN.



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SMVD College of Nursing holds 42nd GB meeting.

The GB discussed the possibilities for exploring introduction of Post Graduate Programme in the college through online/ Hybrid mode in the various disciplines like Health Care Quality and Patient Safety & Community Care for catering to the needs of working population from Health background (clinical / academic settings) as the master's degree is becoming the standard credential for most medical/ healthcare positions. Besides, the availability of these programs in India is limited and introduction of the same shall increase accessibility to high quality education for a large number of aspiring students through distance-learning modalities.

The Governing Body while approving the annual budget of SMVDCoN for the financial year 2022-23 (Grant-in-Aid) also approved the draft rules to facilitate faculty of SMVDCoN for pursuing Ph.D.

In addition, the GB stressed on entering into mutual/ Inter-institutional agreements with AIIMS, Jammu in which the expertise and services of one institute's faculty members are exchanged with the other for promotion of teaching and research collaboration to the faculties of both institutions. The meeting also called for exploring the opportunities of job placements for the students of the Nursing College with such institutions for their better career prospects.



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14.10 Nursing Fest 'Tarang' 2022 hosted by SMVDCoN concludes on a high note

The 2 – days Inter College Nursing Fest Tarang '2022', organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, concluded with the valedictory function held at the Spiritual Growth Centre here on 23rd September. After two years gap due to pandemic 'Nursing fest' has recommended for the third time as per directions of Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT) who called that success as a nation can only be achieved by promoting a culture of ideas and innovation with dedication, discipline and determination”.



Nursing Fest 'Tarang' 2022 hosted by SMVDCoN concludes on a high note.

Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd.) Judge, Chairman, SMVDCoN, Governing Body and Member Shrine Board unfolded the fest by congratulating the students who came across Jammu & Kashmir (UT) for participation in the fest to showcase their talents and appreciated the hard work and efforts put in by the Principal & Faculty of the college (SMVDCoN) in organising this initiative. Besides, emphasized the significance of creating a balance of scholastic and non-scholastic activities in education for a vibrant personality which is a basic requisite of nurses of today.



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Students performing cultural programme during Nursing Fest 'Tarang' 2022.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was the chief guest on the valedictory function, who gave away prizes to the winners of various competitions of TARANG '2022'. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD), College of Nursing Kakryal, won the overall championship. It is a HAT-TRICK for SMVDCoN winning the overall championship consistently for three years 2018, 2019 and 2022. Stephens College of Nursing became the 1st runner up while Bee Enn College of Nursing was declared 2nd runner up. CEO lauded the SMVD College of Nursing for successful completion of the event and congratulated the winners of various competitions and the participating students for displaying their talents. He emphasized the need of upgrading the 'Tarang' to the next level by adding more events and wider participation of nursing colleges of the neighboring States.



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Earlier, Navneet Singh, Addl. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, declared open the athletics competitions at Shrine Board's Sports Complex at Katra.

In all, 400 students from 07 Nursing Colleges of the JK-UT, including the host institution participated in the Mega Fest.

The events organised during the Nursing Fest included Rangoli, Poster making, Elocution, Short Film, Street Play, Visual Aid Presentation, Face painting, hair styling (fun game) and various sports events.

14.11 Governing Council of Shrine Board's Sports Complex reviews sports activities

The 9th Meeting of the Governing Council of the Shrine Board's Sports Complex was held on February 9 at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra presided over by Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Sports Complex, which was attended by Anshul Garg, CEO, Shrine Board; Navneet Singh, Additional CEO; Mahesh Sharma, FA/Chief Accounts Officer; Vipin Bhagat, Asstt. CEO, SMVDSB; and all members of Governing Council including newly inducted who are also a prominent sports person namely Sanjeeva Singh, former International Archer (Arjuna/ Dronacharya Awardee); Krupali Singh, National Gymnastics Coach (Arjuna Awardee); Kuldeep Handoo, eminent Wushu player and National Coach (Dronacharya Awardee); Lalita Sharma, Executive Director (SAI, Sonipat), Ranjeet Kalra, Deputy Director (UGC-HRDC) and Shweta Choudhary, International Shooter.

Dr. Bhan observed that SMVDSB Sports Complex should identify the talent in the identified key sports by training and grooming them so that they could excel and bring laurels in sports events held at various levels. Besides, underscored to conduct GC meetings after an interval of six months so as to monitor the progress for easier goal setting. The Chairman also directed to increase the membership in the SMVD Sports Complex so as to meet the objectives for setting up the Sports Complex.



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Governing Council meeting of SMVD Sports Complex

The Governing Council (GC) took a detailed review of various sports activities being organized at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex since the last meeting held in 2021 and lauded initiatives taken in the intervening period besides, expressing great satisfaction over the appreciable performance of the sports persons trained and nurtured at the Sports Complex. The GC also congratulated the medal winners at the state and national level championships.

While reviewing the annual calendar of sports activities for the next financial year, the Governing Council decided to reorient the calendar activities of the Sports Complex for 2023-24 by organizing various mega sports events at Katra, which included 'Katra Hill Marathon' later this year preferably in the months of October-November, 2023 in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Police and Army Personnel with the target participation of about 1000 persons for generating interest and greater participation. The GC also directed to organize sports activities at SMVDSB Sports Complex once in a month preferably on Sunday for students of Katra and adjoining areas with a view to catch them at earlier stages from April in order to search the sports talent in Reasi and its surrounding areas to develop them into competitive athletes so that the



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students could be imparted specialized coaching to groom them for participation in various national and international competitions.

The meeting also deliberated and approved proposals for providing financial support to some of the talented players of the area having adequate potential to make a mark in varied sports disciplines.

The GC observed that there is a requirement of Sports Psychologist and Biomechanics on regular intervals as to learn and to cope up with the pressure of competitions and to enhance Sports performance.

The Governing Council also held discussion and viewed the detailed abstract of architectural and structural design for creation of a multipurpose indoor hall climatically suited for Katra region with a provision for Indoor Badminton, Judo and Wushu at the Sports Complex. The Member Lalita Sharma offered to provide the services of an expert who will have spot visit and after inspection shall render consultancy in this regard.

The GC observed that SMVDSB Sports Complex, which is already accredited with Khelo India Talent Development in the Archery (Boys & Girls) Discipline from 2021 can be upgraded from the Non-Residential Category to the Residential category with an aim to create an ecosystem and promotion of excellence in SMVDSB Sports Complex.

14.12 'Shobha yatra' at Katra to promote Sanskrit language

To recognize, commemorate and revive the ancient Indian language Sanskrit in JK-UT, under the joint auspices of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul Katra, a 'Shobha Yatra' under the aegis of Sanskrit Week was organized on 10th August from Spiritual Growth Centre which concluded at Banganga, Katra. The Shobha Yatra was flagged off by Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.



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'Shobha yatra' at Katra to promote Sanskrit language

While speaking on the occasion, Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB said that the purpose of the Shobha Yatra is to restore the Sanskrit language in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and to reach the people, for this, he appreciated this innovation of Central Sanskrit University. Besides, added that the Shrine Board under the chairmanship of Hon'ble LG is committed conserving the language by promoting institutes like SMVD Gurukul.

The Shobha Yatra which started from the SGC via the main market of Katra, was welcomed by the businessmen and locals of Katra.

14.13 'Constitution Day' observed at SMVDSB

Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB alongwith Sr. Officers of SMVDSB and District Administration, besides, officers and officials Shrine Board and JKUT on 26th November, read out 'Preamble' of the constitution of India at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India on 26th November, 1949.

As part of the 125th birth Anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar celebrations, 'Constitution Day' was celebrated on 26th November, 2015 for the first time. Since then, 26th November is being celebrated



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as 'Constitution Day' every year. Dr. Ambedkar played a seminal role in the framing of the Indian Constitution as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly.



Pledge taken on 'Constitution Day' observed at SMVDSB

The main aim of celebrating this day is to create awareness among the citizens about the Constitution and its values.

Anshul Garg, CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board while welcoming the eminent dignitaries invited the whole gathering in the auditorium to read the Preamble.

14.14 8th International Yoga Day celebrated at Shrine Board's Sports Complex at Sports Complex

To mark the celebration of the 8th International Day of Yoga, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in collaboration with Patanjali Yogpeeth organized the Yog Divas on 21st June at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports Complex, Katra in sync with celebrations in other parts of India and practitioners across the world.

Prior to its commencement Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB Mr. Anshul Garg finalised the arrangements made for organising the International Yoga Day at Katra, at a meeting of the officers of Shrine Board and representatives of Patanjali Yogpeeth on 18th June.



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Celebration of 8th International Yoga Day at Sports Complex

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports Complex, Katra was among 75 historical and Iconic places chosen in the country as part of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” celebrations as this being the base town for the pilgrimage to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest of event Mr. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB said that Yoga has served humanity in mitigating sufferings during the COVID-19 Pandemic as it does wonders for our physical and mental health. Besides, added that the Shrine Board is assisting the Government in all its initiatives in Sports, health and wellness for the betterment of mankind and society at large.

The Yog Divas, with the theme ‘Yoga for Humanity’ was attended by employees of the Board including Addl. Chief Executive Officer, Jt. Chief Executive Officers and Dy. Chief Executive Officers besides sportspersons of the Sports Complex, prominent citizens and hundreds of local residents from all walks of life. Starting from 6:30 AM, the event concluded at 7:30 AM. The participants performed a series of Yogasanas



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in unison towards better health and wellness for all under the supervision of yoga experts following Common Yoga Protocol (CYP).



Yogasanas performed at Sports Complex

It is being organized on a regular basis in the Shrine Board's Sports Complex after inauguration of the facility by Hon'ble Prime Minister in the year 2014.

The yoga sessions were also organised at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Sanjichhat and Bhairon as part of the celebration of International Yoga Day.



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15. Significant Accomplishments

15.1 Jal Prahari Samman Samaroh-2023; SMVD Shrine Board felicitated for water conservation and management

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was felicitated at the Jal Prahari Samman Samaroh – 2023 held on March 29 at New Maharashtra Sadan, KG Marg, New Delhi. The felicitation ceremony was organized under the aegis of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, in recognition of the significant strides made by the Shrine Board to promote water conservation, water harvesting and re-use of treated water.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board received the Award on behalf of the Board from Union Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. He thanked the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti for recognizing the work done by the Shrine Board under the chairmanship of Sh. Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt Governor, JK-UT (Chairman, SMVDSB) for water conservation and management adding that this honor will encourage the Board's team to work more zealously for water management and its conservation as part of Yatra management initiatives.

In this ceremony more than 50 water champions from various states across the country including Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board have been recognized as Jal Prahari on the basis of their work.

Noteworthy, that the Shrine Board besides making concerted efforts to provide the best possible facilities to the pilgrims, interalia, taking continuing initiatives and adopting best water management practices and techniques for water conservation. These included construction of water harvesting ponds, afforestation drives in Trikuta Hills, installation of Water ATMs, recycling of Sewage Treatment Plants water for reuse in flushing of toilet blocks, installation of waterless urinals and rooftop rainwater harvesting etc.



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SMVD Shrine Board felicitated for water conservation and management

Various provisions have also been made in the residential buildings of the SMVDSB for rainwater harvesting and a multi-pronged approach has been adopted by Forest Wing of Shrine Board for proper water management and promotion of water conservation through various activities and campaigns.

Banganga river rejuvenation also remained a focus area for Shrine Board wherein water management and environment management are taken together for implementation to restore the lost ecology of the polluted stretches of the river.

The installation of dedicated Fire Hydrants to mitigate fire incidents during summer season by lifting of treated water from Bhawan STP to reservoirs of 75,000 gallons capacity each at Hut Station, Bhawan, Saket, Himkoti and Adhkuwari, in normal course is to be utilised for floriculture, washing of track, construction works etc. The Board has made such provisions in its several other buildings also which includes Spiritual Growth Centre, Staff Colony, Nomain, Niharika Complex, Aastha Complex, SMVD Gurukul and Serli Helipad.

Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Prahlad Singh Patel, MP Manoj Tiwari and Unmesh Patil, Ambassadors of many countries including Netherland, Finland, Malta, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan were present to grace the occasion.



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15.2 SMVD Gurukul bring laurels by winning 08 medals in first ever North Zone Youth Festival held at Katra

The 3-day North Zone Youth Festival 'Kshitij' being organized at premises of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in collaboration with Central Sanskrit University concluded with the valedictory function held at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra on 22 February, 2023.

This mega event named 'Kshitij' commenced at Katra for the first time for the promotion of Sanskrit in the Union territory as per the directions of Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT).



Award winning SMVD Gurukul students in first ever North Zone Youth Festival held at Katra

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

A total of 35 students from SMVD Gurukul participated in various events and clinched 08 medals in sports and cultural events. These included Gold medal (first prize) in Sanskrit Short film, Rangoli and Group



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Song whereas, in wrestling claimed Silver medal (2nd Prize) in 61kg and Bronze medal (3rd Prize) in 65 Kg and 70 Kg categories. Besides, secured a Bronze medal (3rd Prize) in Group dance and Solo Song.

Eminent guests who were present during the valedictory included Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Prof RK Sinha, DIG Shakti Pathak, Prasad Mahankar Saraswat of Krida Bharti, Prof. Madan Mohan Jha, Director of Shri Ranbir Campus, Dr. JC Mehra, Joint CEO besides, faculty and staff of SMVD Gurukul, Central Sanskrit University and Adarsh Maha Vidyalaya of Sanskrit, along with various campuses.

15.3 SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital performs 03 cochlear Implant Surgeries – Changing lives of specially-abled children

As yet another clinical accomplishment, the ENT Department of SMVDNSH performed 3 successful Cochlear Implant Surgeries on congenitally deaf children on February 14. All the beneficiaries had profound bilateral hearing loss and since they couldn't hear, they weren't able to speak either. Out of three, the surgeries of two patients were sponsored by the Shrine Board.

The Board sponsored treatment has come as a pass for the poor children to venture into the world of words and sounds.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital performs three cochlear Implant Surgeries



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As an apt manifestation of Hospital's clinical capabilities, the three surgeries in reference were performed through in-house expertise comprising guidance by Dr. Sunil Kotwal, execution by a strong surgical team led by Dr. Rohan Gupta (both Consultant ENT), anaesthesia support by team led by Dr. Pankaj Gupta and post-operative management by Dr. Anand Yelne (Consultant Pediatrics).

Dr. Gopal Sharma, revealed that from April, 2018 to February, 2023, the Board has sponsored cochlear implant surgeries of 19 deaf and dumb children.

16. 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 2022-23

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

The President of India, Sh. Ram Nath Kovind, accompanied by Smt. Savita Kovind, First Lady, visited at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on 10th June, 2022.

Alongwith Lt Governor, JK-UT and Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sh. Manoj Sinha, the President's entourage drove in a convoy of battery- operated cars to the Bhawan and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum. Sh. Kovind prayed for the progress and prosperity of the people of the country.

During his brief visit, the President went around the Shrine Complex, viewed the facilities and met the pilgrims. He waved to other pilgrims, who had queued up to see him.



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President Ram Nath Kovind at Mata Vaishno Devi Ji's Shrine.

The Lt. Governor briefed the President about the continuing initiatives being taken for upgrading and expanding the infrastructure to cater to the progressively increasing number of pilgrims.

While on return, the President also visited the Bhairon Temple via Passenger Ropeway and paid obeisance.

President Ram Nath Kovind had come for the second time to pay obeisance at the Holy Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi ji. Earlier in the month of April 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind paid visit to Maa Vaishno Devi ji.

On arrival at the Panchhi Helipad from Jammu, the President was received by Sh. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board.



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ii) Chief Justice of India pays obeisance at Vaishno Devi (15.05.2022)

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana visited the holy cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi on 15 May and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum.



Sh Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB presenting a memento to Sh. N V Ramana, Chief Justice of India.

At Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board received the Chief Justice of India. The CEO mentioned about various infrastructure development initiatives taken and further arrangements being put in place by the Shrine Board for continuously improving the facilities for the visiting pilgrims.

iii) Union Home Minister offers prayers at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine (04.10.2022)

Union Home Minister, Amit Shah visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji and offered prayers to the Goddess on 4th of October. He prayed for the progress and prosperity of the people of the country. His visit coincided with the auspicious occasion of Ramanavami and conclusion of nine days



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long 'Shat Chandi Maha Yagya' with Purna Ahuti organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Shrine for universal peace, harmony and prosperity of humanity.



Union Home Minister received by CEO, SMVDSB

The Home Minister accompanied by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board arrived at Panchhi Helipad and was received by Union MoS, Dr. Jitendra Singh; Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg, besides, senior officers of civil and police administration.



Chairman, SMVDSB presenting memento to Union Home Minister



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The Lieutenant Governor briefed the Home Minister about the continuing initiatives being taken by the Shrine Board for the upgradation and expansion of the infrastructure for facilitating the progressively increasing number of pilgrims to the Holy Shrine.

iv) **Chief Minister of Haryana pays obeisance at Vaishno Devi (27.11.2022)**

Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar visited the holy cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi on 27th November and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum.



Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB presenting a memento to Sh. Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana.

At Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board received the Chief Minister of Haryana. The CEO mentioned about various infrastructure development initiatives taken and further arrangements being put in place by the Shrine Board for continuously improving the facilities for the visiting pilgrims.



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17. 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, inter alia, 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 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.



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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 emphasis 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 172 students are studying in classes 6th to Shastri Part-III and the first batch of 10 students of Shastri passed out in 2020, all holding 1st division. Gurukul is fully residential, affiliated to the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, a leading Sanskrit University in the country. All the students are 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



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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 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



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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 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



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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 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



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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

- **Shrine Board's Sports Complex Judokas bring laurels by winning 21 medals, make way to the National Judo Championship**

The Judokas of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra have brought laurels by winning 21 medals at the 2-day JK-UT Judo Championship cum selection trial organised by J&K Judo Associations under the aegis of J&K Sports Council J&K at Jammu. Besides, 3 Judokas selected for Sub-junior and Cadet National Judo Championship scheduled at Chennai from 17th - 20th February, 2023.

As many as 22 Judokas trained and groomed at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra participated in all the categories of this championship and won 3 gold, 11 silver and 7 bronze medals.



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Shrine Board's Sports Complex Judokas who participated in National Judo Championship.

Anshul Garg, CEO congratulated all the Judokas for their excellent performance. He said that the Shrine Board's under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT is committed to encourage the youth and provide them a platform to showcase their talents, as Sports Complex is being developed as a Centre of excellence and impressed upon the sportspersons to take optimum benefit from the state-of-the-art equipment and other facilities made available at the Sports Complex.



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18. 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 2022-23, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board spent an amount of Rs. **616.48** lakh under its Medical Support Policy for providing 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) and Special Accident Cases. The Board made the expenditure as per the details given below:

S. No.	Category	OPD / IPD	FY/ 2022-23	
			(Apr 22- Mar 23)	
			No.	Expenditure (Rs.in lakh)
1	Pilgrims	OPD/ IPD	490	271.59
2	Landowners	OPD	365	10.20
		IPD	7	2.42
3	Employees and their dependents	OPD	9,352	173.23
		IPD	193	121.34
4	Students of SMVDCoN	OPD	414	6.88
		IPD	2	0.45
5	Students of Gurukul	OPD	11	0.23
		IPD	0	0.00
6	Gratuitous Relief	OPD/IPD	7	29.85
7	Special Accident Cases	IPD	1	0.28
Total:			10,842	616.48



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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 !