



Trikuta

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Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

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Lt. Governor inaugurates Integrated Command & Control Centre at Katra

Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha also the Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board inaugurated the "CCTV Surveillance System with Integrated Command & Control Centre" at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra on June 9, 2025. The project, established at a cost of Rs 20 crore, aims to enhance safety and security infrastructure of the entire Shrine area.

The ICCC features an AI-powered surveillance ecosystem that provides comprehensive situational awareness, optimizes operations and emergency response, besides, improving crowd control on the track.



Lt. Governor inaugurated Integrated Command & Control Centre at SGC, Katra



Integrated Command & Control Centre operational at Vaishno Devi Shrine

The system includes an Integrated Command & Control Centre located at Katra, with 7 Sub-Control Centers along the pilgrimage track for localized monitoring and coordination. Over 700 CCTV cameras, including 170 new high-definition IP cameras and integration of more than 500 existing cameras to ensure comprehensive coverage of all critical locations along the track.

The project incorporates advanced technologies such as AI-Based Analytics, including Gesture Recognition, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), Facial Recognition, Intrusion Detection System, and Crowd Management Tools.

Lieutenant Governor emphasized the importance of regular staff training and collaboration with security agencies to maximize the Centre's utility.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Hon'ble Member, SMVDSB, Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu, Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB, Ms. Nidhi Malik, Dy. Commissioner Reasi and other senior officers of Police, Security Agencies and Shrine Board were present.

Lt Governor Chairs 75th Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired the 75th Meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) on June 24, 2025, at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra. He welcomed the new Board Members, expecting their crucial contribution in managing the shrine and preserving its spiritual and cultural heritage. He also acknowledged the dedicated services and significant contributions of former Board Members.

The Board reviewed 21 significant agenda items and made key decisions to enhance pilgrim services and facilities. Notably, the directions were issued to complete the helipad project at Village Hutt by November 2025. The project aims to provide a seamless and convenient experience for devotees visiting Shiv Khori Shrine.

The Board also reviewed the progress on the renewable energy initiatives and directed the CEO to present a comprehensive plan to reduce the Shrine's carbon footprint.

Additionally, a comprehensive sewerage treatment network covering 100% of establishments within the shrine area was approved to enhance sanitation infrastructure.

The Lieutenant Governor issued direction for the expansion of Yatri Feedback System to cover all services with monthly monitoring and aiming active pilgrim participation. The Board also desired identifying vulnerable spots along the pilgrimage route and to take necessary measures to mitigate potential risks of landslides and shooting stones.

The Meeting was attended by all members of the reconstituted Board, viz. Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Shri Baleshwar Rai, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Smt. Sudha Murty, Mrs. Gunjan Rana, Dr. K.K. Talwar, Shri Kulbhushan Ahuja, Shri Lalit Bhasin and Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma.

Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board also attended the Meeting.



Lt Governor Chairs 75th Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at Katra

On the sidelines of the Meeting, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated several pilgrim-centric facilities, including a Battery Car Parking Stand at Bhawan, a covered shed in the outer cave area, Self-Service Kiosk/Digital Cash Registers and Smart Lockers. The Board approved the dedication of five temples constructed in Reasi District to the public in July 2025 and accorded in principle approval to the construction of five new temples with a focus on maintaining uniform architectural design.

Shat Chandi Yagya concludes with Divine Blessings at Vaishno Devi Shrine

The 9-day-long Shat Chandi Maha Yagya, organized by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) with immense reverence and devotion concluded on April 6, 2025 (Mahanavami). Over 3.5 lakh devotees across India and abroad visited the holy Shrine during the Chaitra Navratras to seek blessings of the revered Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.



Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB; Vikas Anand, SDM Bhawan; officers and staff of the Shrine Board and a large number of pilgrims participated in the Purnahuti and other religious ceremonies performed amidst Vedic mantras. The spiritual occasion was further sanctified by a group of Pandits led by Padma Shri Prof Vishwamurti Shastri, who conducted the Maha Yagya.

attractive façade lighting. The other usual facilities like accommodation, battery-operated vehicles, and helicopter services operated smoothly.

Additionally, pilgrims benefited from free food at various locations, including Tarakote Marg, Prasad Kendra at Sanjichhat, Langar Sewa at Bhairon, Adhkuwari, Banganga, and Railway Station, Katra.



Shat Chandi Yagya concludes with Divine Blessings at Vaishno Devi Shrine

The Shrine Board, under the guidance of Hon'ble Chairman (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), introduced several initiatives to make the Navratra more memorable. These included introduction of smart lockers, free public call booths, and complimentary slots for divyang devotees to participate in Garbjoon and Atka Arti. Dedicated quota for helicopter bookings and complimentary battery car services were also provided for accommodating divyang pilgrims.

The Shrine Board made elaborate arrangements to enhance the pilgrimage experience, including ensuring splendid flower decoration, round-the-clock water and power supply, sanitation, and sanitization measures. The Bhawan area and other sectors along the track were illuminated with

Other highlights during these Navratra were captivating performances by renowned artists and by the students of SMVD Gurukul who showcased their musical talents, blending tradition with youthful energy and enriching the spiritual experience.

Shrine Board's Medical College unveils Skill and Simulation Lab for immersive learning, launches training module

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME); the upcoming Medical College of the Board, achieved a significant milestone with the unveiling of its state-of-the-art Skill and Simulation Lab on April 4, 2025. This cutting-edge facility, equipped with the latest technology and shall equipment shall provide



a comprehensive platform for enhancing hands-on medical training and skill development for faculty members, MBBS and nursing students and paramedical staff.



Shrine Board's Medical College unveils Skill and Simulation Lab for immersive learning

Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB inaugurated the lab in the presence of Shri Alok Kumar Maurya, Additional Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Gopal Sharma, Asstt. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, SMVDIME, Associated Hospital and Principals from GMC Kathua and GMC Doda along with SMVDIME officers and staff.

The CEO expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) for approving the infrastructural plan for the Medical College, which includes developing a state-of-the-art Academic and Administrative Block, accommodations and expanding the existing Hospital aiming to increase the College's intake capacity to 100 seats.

The Skill and Simulation also Lab launched its training programs scheduled from the third week of May, 2025 focusing on Basic Life Support (BLS) and First Aid. The sessions, led by American Heart Association (AHA) certified instructors, aim to equip participants with life-saving skills and knowledge. Participants who successfully completed the training program were awarded BLS Course Completion certificates and

Identification cards; certifying them as "Certified BLS Providers." The Skill lab's state-of-the-art facilities provide hands-on training, bridging the academia-industry gap and developing trainees as the modern workforce in health care arena.



Shrine Board's Skill and Simulation Lab Launches Trainings at SMVDIME

SMVDSB and UEED join hands for Pollution Abatement and Banganga rejuvenation

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and the Urban Environment Engineering Department (UEED) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2022 to collaborate on the rejuvenation of the Holy Banganga. The joint initiative aimed to restore and conserve the Banganga rivulet through a comprehensive project approved at an estimated cost of Rs.92.10 crore under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India.

The project focuses on Banganga beautification by constructing a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to improve sewage conditions in and around the Banganga area. Additionally, the project includes the development of bathing ghats, cremation ghats, ecological restoration, and promoting sustainable pilgrimage experiences.

A joint visit was conducted on April 29, 2025 by Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB, accompanied by senior officers and local

residents. Besides, reviewing the project progress, a preliminary meeting was held with locals to understand their concerns regarding the Banganga rejuvenation project.



SMVDSB and UEED join hands for Pollution Abatement and Banganga rejuvenation

The local habitants shared their concerns and provided valuable insight in regard to the project's design and implementation. The CEO instructed for sharing the line diagram of the Banganga rejuvenation project with the stakeholders, ensuring that everyone involved has a clear understanding of the project's scope and layout.

The Shrine Board, under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor JK-UT, has actively initiated works on rejuvenating the Banganga rivulet in Katra. The initiative includes synchronized development and contiguous embankments to enhance the natural environment and visual appeal, as well as desilting and renovation of bathing ghats. Mission-mode efforts have been undertaken to develop a modern drainage system with interceptor chambers for improving the overall health of the rivulet.

Shrine Board Organizes Drawing Competition to Commemorate World Environment Day

To commemorate World Environment Day, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) on June 5, organized a special drawing and sketching competition at its high-

tech nursery in village Kunya, Panthal, near Katra. The event, which saw enthusiastic participation of a large number of students of various age groups, focused on the theme "Ending Plastic Pollution Globally".

The competition aimed to raise awareness about the pressing issue raised by plastic pollution and encouraged young minds to think creatively about viable solutions. The students of classes 1 to 12 from various institutions of surrounding location of Katra area showcased their artistic talents, highlighted the importance of reducing plastic waste and promoted sustainable practices.



Shrine Board Organizes Drawing Competition to Commemorate World Environment Day

Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB expressed delight at the students participation and the quality of artwork displayed. He also highlighted the Board's commitment to environmental conservation wherein over 1.7 million plants have been planted so far through manual intervention with a survival rate of over 80%. He also highlighted the Shrine Board's innovative approach to afforestation, citing the successful initiation of drone-based efforts last year, which have shown promising results. Under this initiative, the Forest Wing has covered approximately 109 hectares of degraded and in-accessible land parcels land the Trikuta Hills.

Shrine Board, THDCIL & GSI collaborate for enhanced Pilgrim safety on Vaishno Devi track

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has signed a tripartite

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited India Limited (THDCIL) and the Geological Survey of India (GSI) on April 9, 2025. The MoU aims to enhance pilgrim safety and security during the pilgrimage to the revered Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

The partnership will ensure the long-term safety and resilience of the yatra route through advanced geotechnical and geophysical investigations/ interventions coupled with the design of modern slope stabilization measures.

and landslides, treating and stabilizing 28 vulnerable sites by installation of rockfall barriers, wire mesh, concrete work, drilling, grouting and anchoring towards. An expenditure in excess of Rs.40 Cr has been incurred by the Board till date, on these measures.

The collaboration will facilitate the sharing of expertise and resources among the three organizations, enhancing pilgrim safety and security while promoting sustainable pilgrimage and protecting the shrine's ecosystem.



Shrine Board, THDCIL & GSI collaborate for enhanced Pilgrim safety on Vaishno Devi track

The MoU outlines the scope of work, roles and responsibilities of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), THDCIL, and GSI, establishing committees to conduct geological investigations and geotechnical surveys to identify potential risks on the pilgrimage track.

The agreement involves conducting an extensive LIDAR survey to identify and delineate areas of slope instability, particularly along the Adhkuwari to Bhawan yatra route, for treatment measures under the close supervision of GSI. Notably, the Shrine Board has been working with THDCIL since 2012 to mitigate risks associated with falling stones

Shrine Board's archer to represent India at World University Games, Germany-2025

The Shrine Board has taken a significant step to support budding sports talent, Hritik Sharma; a promising archer from the SMVD Sports Complex, Katra by extending financial assistance amounting to Rs.2.37 lakh to facilitate his participation in the prestigious World University Games, Germany. He has been getting training at the Complex since September-2020 and has showcased his potential by winning accolades at various forum such as in the Khelo India University Games, 36th / 38th National Games,



North zone Inter University Championship, J&K UT Archery Championship making him a promising prospect for the future sporting excellence.



Shrine Board's archer to represent India at World University Games

Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB mentioned that the sponsorship of Hritik Sharma highlights the Board's dedication to fostering young talent and enabling athletes in the Sports Complex to shine globally. He underscored that by offering vital support, the Shrine Board seeks to facilitate sporting aspirations for bringing accolades to both the region and the nation. He highlighted the Board's sustained investment of Rs.2.5-3 crore annually over the past 9-10 years in developing world-class sports infrastructure and nurturing talented Sports personnel at the SMVD Sports Complex. He cited the remarkable success of Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi, two world-class archers trained at the Complex, who have made a significant global impact and were honored with the prestigious Arjuna Awards for their outstanding achievements.

CEO also congratulated three para-archers from the Sports Complex - Rakesh Kumar, Sheetal Devi and Jyoti Baliyan who made the nation proud by winning four medals, including two gold and two bronze, at the recently concluded Para Archery World Ranking Tournament held in Rome.

Shrine Board celebrates 11th International Yoga Day with Enthusiasm

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in collaboration with the Art of Living Foundation celebrated the 11th International Yoga Day with great fervor and enthusiasm at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex, Katra. The event themed "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," aimed at promoting yoga as a powerful tool for individual transformation and societal well-being and emphasizing its benefits for the physical, mental and spiritual well-being.



Shrine Board celebrates 11th International Yoga Day

The event featured a series of yoga and meditation sessions, led by experienced instructors from the Art of Living Foundation following the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP). hundreds of participants including Board officers and staff, sportspersons, students, prominent citizens and local residents came together in unison to practice yoga and meditation for better health and wellness.

To complement the main event, a yoga session was also organized at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME), Kakryal, where faculty, senior residents, tutors and non-teaching staff participated with in the presence of the Executive Director.

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