



Trikuta

A Quarterly Newsletter

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

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Lt Governor attends Foundation Day celebration of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board & annual day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT (Chairman, SMVDSB) Shri Manoj Sinha on 30th August attended the 39th Foundation Day celebration of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and the momentous occasion of 14th annual day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul at Matrika Auditorium of SMVD University.



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

On the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated all the Members, officials and everyone associated with SMVDSB and Gurukul on their achievements and contribution to inclusive development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lt Governor highlighted the measures taken by Board towards hassle-free pilgrimage and enhancing spiritual experience of devotees. He emphasized the need for reforms in the education sector by way integration of scientific dimension and moral values. Appreciating Gurukul's balanced approach to modern and Vedic education, he related it to ancient India's focus on developing students' complete personality and creativity. Lt. Governor applauded the critical contribution of Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri, and teachers of the Gurukul in the growth of SMVD Gurukul.

institution while students of the Gurukul staged an impressive Sanskrit play that was highly appreciated by the audience.

The Lieutenant Governor honored outstanding students, Board staff, and the team behind the façade lighting project in the Shrine area. He also launched Dr. Neelam Sareen's book, "Shri Mata Vaishno Devi - Ek Alokik Sidh Peeth," and the third edition of SMVD Gurukul's Annual Magazine's (Brahmi) showcasing rich cultural heritage and academic excellence of the institution

Later, the Lt Governor also visited the construction site and inspected the ongoing works of SMVDIME.



Students performing play on Annual Day

Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Member of SMVDSB and Chairman of the Governing Council of Gurukul, applauded the Shrine Board's pivotal role in nurturing institutions like Gurukul. He noted that Gurukul has successfully preserved Vedic and Sanatan traditions and thus seamlessly blending the ancient wisdom and contemporary knowledge.

Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB, highlighted various initiatives of the Board taken for the facilitation of pilgrims.

Dr Dhananjay Mishra, Principal, Gurukul, presented Annual Report of the

LG pays obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, inaugurates new Yagyashala at Bhawan

On 11th August Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and prayed for the peace, prosperity and progress of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

During this visit, Lt Governor inaugurated the new Yagyashala facility at Bhawan and dedicated it to the devotees. The New Yagyashala aims to enrich spiritual practices and meeting religious aspirations of an increased number of devotees.



LG inaugurated new Yagyashala at Bhawan.

The 'Newly Yagyashala' located below the Atka area has an expanse of over 1600 sft with 05 Havan Kunds provided in this Yagyashala, there has been a threefold increase in accommodating devotees desirous of participating in 'Yagyas/ Havan' organized by the Board. Additionally, an approach gallery leading to the Yagyashala with a covered area of 1100 sq. ft. has been created for accommodating more than 100 pilgrims during the Shat Chandi Mahayagya performing at Bhawan during all Navratras.



Shrine Board Unveils New Yagyashala at Bhawan with Grand Pran Pratishtha Ceremony

SMVDIME and SMVDNSH organises Plantation Drive and Workshop on Biomedical Equipment

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) and its associated Hospital (SMVDNSH) hosted two

significant events on July 16. These included a plantation drive promoting environmental sustainability and a two-day workshop on biomedical equipment maintenance, in association with Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ). The plantation drive witnessed participation of various stakeholders while the workshop provided practical training to healthcare professionals including Bio-medical Engineers, anesthesia technicians, OT technicians, ICU technicians, nursing professionals, staff from government / private hospitals and nursing homes of the Jammu region.



SMVDIME and SMVDNSH organises Plantation Drive and workshop

Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, Shri Anshul Garg observed that such activities are a testimony to our commitment to excellence in community service and healthcare sector under the chairmanship of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT. He complimented the experts for successful organising of capacity building workshop for fostering a culture of continuous learning and enhancement of skills of medical professionals.

Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, SMVDIME extended welcome to the dignitaries and participating delegates and highlighted the gains from workshop and the importance of public-private partnerships in public health facilities.



Shrine Board Launches Drone-Based Seed Dispersal over Trikuta Hills

In a landmark move, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board launched a groundbreaking drone-based green initiative on March 23 to boost the green cover of Trikuta Hills, leveraging cutting-edge technology for environmental conservation and sustainable development. Partnering with Prime UAV Pvt. Ltd., the initiative envisages use of drones to disperse seeds of native plant species, promoting eco-friendly practices and biodiversity conservation.

Army, CRPF, JK Police, Shrine Board, besides, faculty alongwith students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing and educational institutions in the vicinity.

The CEO; while speaking on the occasion, expressed pride over new greening initiatives, highlighting the Board's decade-long commitment to environmental conservation. He cited that under its Annual Green Plan the Shrine Board has already planted over 1.7 million plants through manual intervention with a survival rate of more than 80%. The sapling were



Shrine Board Launches Drone-Based Seed Dispersal over Trikuta Hills

It is pertinent to mention that the Board's Chairman (Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT) Shri Manoj Sinha had issued directions for considering drone technology for seed dispersal with the aim of extending plantation activities to large hitherto-inaccessible areas of Trikuta Hills. In pursuance to the same, Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, inaugurated the program at village Natali, in the presence of officers / officials from the

meticulously reared in the Board's high-tech nursery at village Kunia in Panthal area (near Katra). CEO added that recent initiatives of Board are not only in alignment with environment stewardship but also is a testament to Board's dedication to preserving the nature and fostering ecological balance of the region.

CEO, SMVDSB exhorted that drone-based afforestation initiative is expected to have far reaching benefits adding over that



next 10 years, the Forest Wing of Board intends to cover 100 hectare of degraded patches every year. He underscored eco-friendly endeavors being part of Board's broader efforts to conserve the environment and ecology by carrying out the greening of Trikuta Hills and the spaces along the tracks leading to the Shrine. He also drew attention to numerous initiatives undertaken for the waste management, water management, and solar power generation and aligning these to Prime Minister's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

Shrine Board launches cleanliness campaign for Banganga Rivulet under Swachhta Pakhwada

On 7th August, the Board launched a comprehensive campaign for the cleanliness of Banganga rivulet, aligning it with the Swachh Bharat Mission and Swachhta Pakhwada initiative. The drive was launched as per the directions of Chairman SMVDSB, Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT and was led by Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB. The campaign aimed to maintain the sanctity and cleanliness of the holy rivulet, ensuring it remains pollution-free. The initiatives included removing litter, debris and silt from the rivulet with participants taking the Swachhta Pledge.



Shrine Board launches cleanliness campaign for Banganga Rivulet under Swachhta Pakhwada

On the occasion, CEO emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in the holy town, urging co-operation of locals and pilgrims. The CEO also stated that to enhance the spiritual and aesthetic experience of devotees, the Board also plan to launch a Banganga Arti and Multimedia Laser Show.

Notably, the Shrine Board has taken various initiatives for ensuring sanitation and cleanliness along the tracks and conservation of environment and ecology of Trikuta Hills. These measures include setting up a mule dung based biogas plant at Banganga, Sewage Treatment Plants at various locations on the track (for waste water treatment and recycling treated water for greening initiatives) the construction of water harvesting ponds, afforestation drives in Trikuta Hills and rooftop rainwater harvesting etc. Additional initiatives include planting over 1.50 lakh seedlings annually to prevent soil erosion and a drone-based afforestation drive to increase green cover.

CEO SMVDSB Inaugurates Telemedicine Studio at SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

In a significant step aimed at enhancing healthcare services for devotees and the local community, Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB inaugurated a state-of-the-art Telemedicine Studio at the SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital on September 9.



CEO SMVDSB Inaugurates Telemedicine Studio at SMVDNSH



This initiative allows real-time consultations between doctors on the Vaishno Devi track and medical experts at the Hospital, providing instant access to specialized medical advice and improving response to the medical emergencies.

The Telemedicine Studio is a result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between SMVDSB, Hewlett Packard Enterprise India Private Limited (HPEIPL) and Hewlett Packard (India) Software Operation Private Limited (HPISO) on April 6 this year, as per the directions of Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt Governor, JK-UT and Chairman, SMVDSB. The MoU aims to install nine cloud-enabled state-of-the-art Health ATMs along the revered Vaishno Devi pilgrimage track and one Telemedicine Studio at Katra.

With this initiative, the Board aims to integrate modern technology with traditional healthcare practices, thereby ensuring quality medical services for all. The goal is to provide a safe and convenient experience to millions of pilgrims visiting the shrine each year.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Board provides free accident insurance cover of Rs.5 lakh to each pilgrim visiting the Holy Shrine besides free treatment to devotees falling sick on the yatra track.

CEO SMVDSB calls for joint efforts to ensure smooth Navratra celebrations

Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board chaired a crucial review meeting on September 30 to ensure a seamless pilgrimage experience during the Shardiya Navratra period, October 3-12, 2024. The meeting held at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra brought together security agencies and local authorities to assess critical areas like security and operational preparedness. Attendees included representatives from SMVDSB, SSP Reasi, CRPF, Army, IB, CID, Fire Services, and other intelligence agencies.



CEO Shrine Board chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra

Key measures discussed included replacing RFID cards with new RFID cards for enhanced security, mandatory RFID registration for pilgrims, and setting up of 08 new registration counters at Katra's Railway Station. The CEO emphasized need for thorough frisking, verification, census of pony porters for mitigating security risks besides, robust crowd management, fire safety, disaster preparedness, smooth vehicle movement, improved sanitation, drinking water supply and enhanced lighting in the Shrine area and Katra. Security agencies were asked to deploy drones, CCTV cameras, additional forces and quick response teams to ensure safety of pilgrims.

Security agencies presented a detailed action plan envisaging, inter-alia, use of CCTV cameras for real-time monitoring besides deployment of additional security forces and quick response teams (QTRs).

CEO Shrine Board vows for unwavering commitment to Pilgrim Facilities on Independence Day

Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board reiterated Board's commitment to providing top-notch facilities and services to pilgrims during 78th Independence Day. Addressing the gathering, CEO highlighted the completion of Durga Bhawan which has resulted in substantial augmenting of accommodations for devotees at Bhawan and the upcoming Vaishnavi Bhawan, expected to



be completed by November next year. He mentioned that the construction of Skywalk has also improved Yatra management while a new 200 m exit track at Bhawan will further streamline the exit of pilgrim from Bhawan area, thereby reducing congestion by avoiding criss-cross movements and wait times.

CEO also highlighted that New Yagyashala facility at Bhawan, dedicated recently to the devotees by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Chairman SMVDSB will serve the religious needs of devotees and enhance spiritual practices at Bhawan. CEO also announced that the facility to perform Nav Chandi Path every Tuesday, shall be soon provided to desirous devotees. He underscored that developments enroute including commencement of Garbhjoon Arti Darshan at Adhkuwari (benefiting 500 devotees daily) and start of Langar facility at newer locations augurs well with the Board's vision.



CEO Shrine Board vows for unwavering commitment to Pilgrim Facilities on Independence Day

CEO asserted that the new Yatra Facilitation Centre at Railway Station, Katra will simplify the RFID card issuance process. Further, to boost pilgrim-tourism, helicopter service from Katra to Shiv Khori and four temples along the Trikuta Parikrama Yatra trek route are being contemplated. CEO also appealed to the local community to maintain a clean environment and extend hospitality to pilgrims and sought their participation in the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign.

Earlier, CEO took salute at an impressive march-past by well-dressed

contingents drawn from J&K Police, CRPF, NCC Boys and Girls, Shrine Security Sahayaks and students of various educational institutions. The students also presented a colorful scintillating cultural programmes largely based on the theme of patriotism and national integration. Shri Anshul Garg gave away cash prizes and appreciation to outstanding performers amongst Shrine Board staff. Besides, the students who were adjudged best in the march-past and performance of cultural programme were also duly awarded.



CEO Shrine Board taking guard of honour

Prominent attendees to the impressive function included Shrine Board officers and offers from local administration, local citizens and heads of educational institutions, media representatives, teachers, and school children.

Shrine Board Extends Grand Welcome to Paralympic Bronze Medalists

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha also Chairman, SMVDSB on September 28 felicitated Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar, India's proud bronze medalists at the Paris Paralympics-2024 at Raj Bhavan, Jammu. These talented para-archers; trained at the SMVD Sports Complex, brought glory to the nation with their outstanding performance in the Mixed Team Compound Open Archery event. The duo's victory in the bronze medal match against Italy's Matteo Bonacina and



Eleonora Sarti, with a narrow score of 156-155, exemplifies the fine margins that define success at the highest level of sport.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Para Archers for their incredible performance at Paris 2024 Paralympics and during the interaction, praised their hard work, dedication and achievements, which have brought immense pride to the nation. He emphasized that their exceptional success will serve as an inspiration for the younger generation. In addition to honouring the athletes, the Lt Governor also recognized Archery Coach Abhilasha Chaudhary for her valuable contributions. He extended his best wishes to both the athletes and the coach for their future endeavors.

Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and other senior officers of the Shrine Board were present during the ceremony.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, congratulated the duo, highlighting their remarkable achievement and the Shrine Board's dedication to promoting sports like shooting, archery and athletics.

As a token of blessings and appreciation, the CEO presented the medalists with sacred gifts including a Chunri and other revered offerings of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

CEO highlighted that the Board's consistent annual investment of Rs 2.5 to 3 crore over the past 8-9 years in developing world-class sports infrastructure and nurturing talented athletes at its complex is now yielding remarkable results at international platforms.

Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar, two trailblazing Indian para-archers who have overcome remarkable health and personal challenges to achieve greatness, since their debuts in 2019 and 2017 respectively.



Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha felicitates Paris 2024 Paralympics Bronze Medallists

Earlier, Shrine Board also extended a warm welcome to Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar at the SMVD Sports Complex, for their outstanding performance. Anshul Garg, CEO,

Rakesh revolutionized the sport with innovative techniques whereas, Sheetal's groundbreaking foot-shooting style made significant strides on the international stage.

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