



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

# Trikutata

## A Quarterly Newsletter

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### President visits Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

The President of India, Sh. Ram Nath Kovind, accompanied by Smt. Savita Kovind, First Lady and Governor N.N. Vohra, visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji on April 19, 2018 and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum. During his brief visit the President went around the Shrine complex, viewed the facilities and met the pilgrims. Governor, who is Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board briefed the President about the continuing initiatives being taken for upgrading and expanding the infrastructure to cater to the progressively increasing number of pilgrims to the Holy Shrine.



President of India, Sh. Ram Nath Kovind  
at Holy Shrine on 19-04-2018.

### PM inaugurates Tarakote Marg and Material Ropeway



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurating Shrine Board projects on 19-05-2018.



Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi inaugurated two important infrastructure development projects completed by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at a function held at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium at Jammu University on 19 May 2018. These include exclusive pedestrian track Tarakote Marg between Katra and Adhkuwari and the Siar Dabri-Bhawan Material Ropeway.

Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of SMVDSB; Ms. Mehbooba Mufti, the then Chief Minister; Sh. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Shipping; Sh. Kavinder Gupta, the then Deputy Chief Minister; Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in PMO; Sh. R. K. Singh, Union Minister of State for Power; Dr. Nirmal Kumar Singh, Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly, besides many other dignitaries including State Government Ministers, Legislators, Chief Secretary and Members of the Shrine Board were present on the occasion.

Recalling that two years ago, in April 2016, Prime Minister had inaugurated Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal and the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra, Governor informed that in the past two years the Hospital has provided medical care to over 2 lakh patients and free treatment, valuing Rs. 37 crore, to the poor and needy.



A view of floating fountain on Tarakote Marg.

The Governor gave a brief description of the two projects about which a short film was also shown to the audience. Tarakote Marg is a 7.5 km long ramp style track which connects Banganga to Adhkuwari. This track, costing over Rs. 80 crore, has been constructed for pilgrims who wish to walk to the Shrine. He said that the opening of this Marg shall very significantly decongest the existing Banganga-Adhkuwari track on which mules and ponies also ply. Tarakote Marg

provides well designed facilities for the comfort and convenience of the pilgrims.



Pilgrims moving on Tarakote Marg.

As regards the second project, Governor informed that the operation of the Material Ropeway will enable transportation of construction and varied other materials from Siar Dabri to the Shrine. This Ropeway, costing about Rs. 12 crore, will enable the movement of 5000 kg of material per hour to the Shrine and this shall very significantly decongest the existing track on which goods and materials are presently being transported in carts and on mules. The Governor also informed about the upcoming Bhawan-Bhairon Ghati Passenger Ropeway for facilitation of the pilgrims.



Siar Dabri-Bhawan Material Ropeway.

## **Over 45.20 lakh pilgrims visit Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine during past 6 months**

As many as 28,34,609 pilgrims visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine during April-June 2018. Similarly, in the first 6 months of current calendar year 45,20,568 Yatris visited the Shrine which is 1,57,003 more than the corresponding period of last year.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital Kakryal

### Governor inaugurates PET CT facility

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal, celebrated its 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary on April 25, 2018. Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty, Founder and Chairman, Narayana Health, was the Guest of Honour at the function.

Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of the Shrine Board, inaugurated a PET CT facility on this occasion in the presence of Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty, Founder and Chairman of Narayana Health; Members Dr. S. S. Bloeria and Sh. B. B. Vyas and Sh. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to the Governor and CEO of the Shrine Board.



Governor N. N. Vohra inspecting PET CT at SSH, Kakryal.

This is the first PET CT facility, established in Jammu region and will immensely help in the detection of cancer and other serious ailments. Governor also held an extensive meeting with Dr. Shetty to review the functioning of the Hospital and discussed all outstanding issues regarding its growth.

Governor spoke about the growth story of the Superspeciality Hospital since 2008 and observed that the Hospital has done quite well during this period and is envisaged to do much better during 2018-19. He emphasised the need to increase the number of highly qualified doctors and other staff and, alongside, ensure that reputed Consultants provided specialised treatment.

Governor and Dr. Shetty felicitated three eminent doctors of the State with Life Time Achievement Awards for their outstanding and distinguished services in the field of Medicine. Those honoured were Dr. N.S. Pathania, former Principal Government

Medical College Jammu and Director General of Health Services and Medical Education; Dr. Girija Dhar, renowned Gynaecologist and former Principal of Government Medical College Srinagar; and Dr. Smanla T. Phuntsog, Post Graduate in Ophthalmology and qualified Physician in the Tibetan System of Medicine.



Governor N. N. Vohra felicitating eminent doctors of J&K.

Dr. Shetty complimented the Governor and the Shrine Board for establishing this excellent Hospital equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment facilities and assured that the reputed Consultants from the various NH Hospitals will be regularly visiting the Superspeciality Hospital.

### ‘Mata Ki Kahani’ Staged at SGC Katra

‘Mata Ki Kahani’ based on the legend of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji, was staged at the Auditorium of Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra, on 4 April 2018, by “Natrang”, a theatre group, in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.



Governor N. N. Vohra presenting mementos to artists.



Besides Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Mrs. Usha Vohra, First Lady; the play was witnessed by an audience of about 350 persons including Members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

On the occasion, the Governor interacted with all 70 artists and congratulated them for their outstanding performances by presenting mementos.

### **New CEO SMVDSB briefs Governor**

After taking charge as CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, called on Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of the Board, at the Raj Bhavan, Srinagar on June 28. CEO informed Governor about the to-date progress of the Board's various flagship projects in Katra and the Shrine area.

Governor advised CEO to ensure time-bound completion of all works and ensure satisfactory facilities for all pilgrims.



CEO briefing Governor about progress of Shrine Board projects.

### **Pay of Shrine Board staff revised**

Consequent upon the approval accorded by the Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board to general pay revision in respect of employees of the Board, a Fitment Sub-Committee headed by Additional Chief Executive Officer has been constituted to decide all the matters relating to fixing/fitment of each employee's pay/emoluments as per the appropriate Levels of the Pay Matrix in accordance with the approved fitment principle w.e.f. 01-01-2016. An additional monthly expenditure of Rs. 1.00 crore shall be borne by the Board on account of pay revision.

### **Yoga event organised at Shrine Board's Sports Complex**

As part of celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board organised a Yoga event at its Sports Complex at Katra on June 21, 2018.

Around 300 participants including children, prominent citizens, officers and staff of the Shrine Board and officers and jawans of Police and CRPF, sports persons and members of Sports Complex took part in the event supervised by Sh. Dinesh Kumar, a renowned yoga guru.



International Yoga Day at Shrine Board's Sports Complex.

Sh. Anshul Garg, Additional CEO of the Shrine Board inaugurated the event and on the occasion felicitated Miss Akriti of Katra for her outstanding performance in the National School Games in Yoga.

### **HR Trainings**

During April-June 2018; 20 training programmes were organised for Shrine Board staff that include Disaster Management training, Basic Life Support, Inventory Management organised at IRMA Anand, Gujarat, Women Safety Awareness and Self-defence and Driving & Road Safety etc.



Staff being imparted Basic Life Support training.



## Governor releases 'Trikuta'

Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, released first issue of 'Trikuta', a Quarterly Newsletter, brought out by the Shrine Board, at the Raj Bhavan, Srinagar on June 1, 2018.



Sh. Umang Narula, CEO received a copy of Trikuta from Governor Vohra.

Governor observed that the Shrine Board has been striving for continually improving facilities for the pilgrims who visit the holy Cave Shrine and, side by side, promoting the welfare of the residents of Katra and the villages located in the vicinity of the Shrine and, besides, the society at large. He observed that the Newsletter can serve as a useful medium for regularly disseminating information about the major activities of the Shrine Board.

## Governor approves Rs. 1 crore new works for Katra town

Continuing with the initiatives for the creation, upgradation and expansion of civic amenities in Katra and its surrounding areas, on the directions of Governor N. N. Vohra, CEO, has taken up three more development works in Katra at an expenditure of over Rs. 107 lakh.

The works include renovation and upgradation of the road from Shalimar Park to Ward No. 8 Hansali, costing Rs. 46.50 lakh, which will enable the completion of the entire road stretch from Bhumika Mandir to Shalimar Park via Hansali and help in decongesting traffic of the main road from Fountain Chowk towards Darshani Deodi.

Another work being taken up on the demand of residents is the renovation and upgradation of Arli Road from Saraswati Chowk to Nangal Road Chowk, Katra. This project, costing Rs. 50 lakh, includes



Circular Road from Hansali to Panthal Road via Bhumika Mandir completed at a cost of Rs. 119 lakh.

black-topping, remodelling of drains, construction of ducts for passage of civic utilities and illumination by LED lamps, and shall provide the shortest route to the pilgrims travelling from Railway Station to Bus Stand, Katra.

The work on renovation of lanes and drains from Matyal Petrol Pump on Panthal Road to Darshani Deodi, Katra, at a cost of Rs. 30.56 lakh, is also progressing speedily. Besides facilitating the local population, the renovation of this lane will provide a direct link to the pilgrims from Railway Station to Darshani Deodi.



Central Verge on Railway Station Road, Katra with railing and LED lights completed at a cost of Rs. 153 lakh.

The works earlier completed costing Rs. 248 lakh include Bhumika Mandir-Hansali Circular Road, new railing on the Central Verge of the road leading to the Railway Station alongwith dual lamp LED street lights and equipment for the Children Playground at Shalimar Park, Katra. The Board has also completed development works in Sira-Kakryal and its neighbourhood, valuing Rs. 298 lakh, which include installation of 6 Stainless Steel Bus Stops; 40 LED Solar Street Lights on Manthal-Kakryal and Domel-Kakryal roads; accommodation and other facilities in Primary School Sira Colony and Conference Hall at Sira Colony.



## Governing Council for Gurukul prepares fellowship scheme to pursue PG courses

The 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of Governing Council of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, was held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in which the Council discussed a scheme for institutionalising fellowships for the top 5 meritorious students of Shastri classes for pursuing Acharya or equivalent Post-Graduation Courses in Sanskrit, Jyotish, Darshan and Ved streams in the leading institutions of the country. Rs. 50,000/- per annum shall be provided to the meritorious scholars for a 2 year period based on academic performance.

Sh. B. B. Vyas, Chairman of the Governing Council for Gurukul, emphasised the need for preparing a dynamic and interactive website of the Gurukul and hosting all the relevant information including the Vision, Mission and the achievements of this institution. He added that a complete database of the alumni of the Gurukul should be prepared and suggested setting up a smart classroom in the Gurukul for promoting smart learning.



Sh. B. B. Vyas Member Shrine Board and Chairman of Governing Council for SMVD Gurukul chairing 24th GC meeting.

## GB discusses modalities for starting M. Sc. Nursing Programme by SMVDCoN

The Governing Body meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, was held at Jammu on 28 April 2018. Discussions were held on Academic Calendar and Calendar of Events for 2018-19 and the modalities for starting M.Sc. Nursing Programme in SMVDCoN by 2020 as part of 10-year Vision Plan formulated for developing the Nursing College as a pioneering institution in imparting top quality nursing education upto Ph. D. Level.



Students of SMVDCoN in Nursing Foundation Lab.

The meeting was chaired by Maj. Gen. S.K. Sharma (Retd), Chairman of the Governing Body of the College of Nursing; and attended by Mr. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to the Governor and Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Dr. V. Verma, Dean, SMVDU; Dr. (Brig) Man Mohan Harjai, Administrator; and Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal of the College of Nursing.

## Workshop on Disaster Management

To remain ever alert to tackle all types of disasters at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan in Trikuta Hills, Workshop-cum-Discussion was held at Adhkuwari and Bhawan under the chairmanship of Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Member, Shrine Board, on June 16, 2018 attended by senior officials of CRPF, J&K Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Shrine Board.

After giving a brief presentation, Gen. Sharma laid emphasis on the coordination among various agencies and wings of the Shrine Board to tackle any emergency especially the forest fires, shooting stones, landslides, besides mock drills to assess the preparedness of the stakeholders. Maj. Gen. Sharma accompanied by SDM, Bhawan and other officers also inspected the Disaster Management stores.



Disaster preparedness mock drill in progress.



## Chairman Shrine Board reviews measures to prevent forest fires

### 1.41 lakh saplings being planted this year

Taking note of the recent incidents of forest fires in the Shrine area Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, reviewed all related issues with Sh. Umang Narula, CEO, and Sh. M. K. Kumar, Additional CEO, on 14 June 2018.

Chairman was informed that in addition to the large scale afforestation being undertaken every year under the Greening Action Plan, plan for effective fire fighting measures is being implemented alongwith Fire Audit of the track and the Shrine area from time to time, and mock drills for disaster preparedness.

In case of any fire incident, Fire Watchers, VDC members, Fire Controlling Team and Disaster Management Task Force of the Board promptly respond and take all required measures by involving local population to control the fire. If required, support is sought from CRPF, Forest Protection Force and Air Force to augment the fire fighting operations. Besides 5 fire tenders, the Shrine Board also has a dedicated fire hydrant at Himkoti to control forest fires in the area.



High value plants at Shrine Board's Nursery.

The Board is bringing another 50 hectares area under green cover by planting 80,000 saplings of various species of forest trees besides 61,000 ornamental plants under its Annual Greening Plan 2018-19. During the past 10 years, 13.46 lakh plants have been planted by the Board as part of Greening of Trikuta Hills.

### **IFS Probationers on study tour of Shrine Board**

Two groups comprising 97 Indian Forest Service Probationers of 2017 Batch from the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun during June 2018 visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine as part of their Hill Tour programme. During the study tour, they also

visited the hi-tech Nursery set up by the Shrine Board at Kunia, Panthal to conserve and multiply indigenous species of plants, compatible with the local climatic conditions, for greening of the Trikuta Hills.

Work on Phase-II, of Kunia Nursery covering an area of 0.75 hectares at an estimated cost of Rs. 70 lakh, is expected to be completed by December this year.

### **Preservation of environment and ecology: Shrine Board sets up a network of STPs**

While creating new infrastructure and expanding logistics for meeting the emerging requirements of the progressively increasing pilgrimage, side by side, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board is focussing very high attention on the preservation of environment and ecology of the Shrine area.



STP at Trikuta Bhawan, Katra.

In this connection, Shrine Board has already installed a number of Sewage Treatment Plants of latest technology and of varied capacities at various establishments.

#### List of functional STPs in Shrine Area

S.No.	Establishment	Capacity
1	Bhawan	3.2 MLD
2	Niharika Aashirwad	400 KLD
3	Trikuta Bhawan	250 KLD
4	Jammu (SD/VD/KD)	400 KLD
5	SMVDIME, Kakryal	600 KLD
6	SMVDNSH	200 KLD

12 major toilet blocks have been connected to Sewage Treatment Plant at Bhawan, and to cater to the remaining toilet blocks, a comprehensive network of Sewage Treatment Plants is under construction at various locations and complexes of the Board.



The Shrine Board has also installed packaged Sewage Treatment Plants at Biogas Plant Banganga, SKC Colony, Banganga and Gurukul at a cost of Rs. 36.50 lakh.

Meanwhile, in an effort to conserve water, the treated water from Katra based Sewage Treatment Plants is being used for maintenance of turf and lawns of the Shrine Board's Sports Complex besides cisterns of Toilet Blocks, thereby resulting in saving of 40,000 litres of potable water every day, in addition to a net saving of Rs. 2 lakh annually.

### Activities at Shrine Board's Sports Complex

During April-June 2018, a number of sports events were organised at Shrine Board's Sports Complex, which include 2 Summer Camps of 15 days duration each to provide specialized coaching in select disciplines to more than 300 participants.

Ten days Coaching Camp in sports was organized in the disciplines of Kabaddi, Tug of War and Volleyball that was attended by 48 selected Campers representing the rural and far flung areas of Arnas, Gaari, Pouni, Reasi, Charai and near-by places of Katra. The participants were imparted both intensive and extensive fitness training and specialized coaching by the experts.



Players in action at Shrine Board's Sports Complex.



Badminton Tournament in progress.

Other events included Badminton Tournament for employees of the Board and 8-day orientation course for 50 Physical Education Teachers of Reasi, Jammu and Udhampur districts.



Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, Director General Youth Services & Sports with players at Shrine Board's Sports Complex at Katra.

During this period prominent personalities including Sh. Khursheed Ahmed Ganai, Chief Information Commissioner, J&K; Sh. Sushil Kumar, Olympic medalist and President School Games Federation of India; and Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, Director General, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, visited the Sports Complex, interacted with the participants of the summer coaching camps and other events and viewed state of the art facilities created by the Shrine Board.

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