



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Trikuta

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Satya Pal Malik assumes office as 13th Governor of J&K



Shri Satya Pal Malik being sworn-in as the Governor of J&K at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar on 23rd August 2018.

Shri Satya Pal Malik was sworn-in as the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir on 23rd August 2018.

Chief Justice of J&K High Court, Justice Gita Mittal administered the oath of office to Shri Malik at a simple but impressive function at bedecked sprawling lawns of Raj Bhavan in Srinagar. The warrant of appointment of Shri Malik was read out by the Chief Secretary, Shri B. V. R. Subrahmanyam.

Shri Malik was previously the Governor of Bihar and Odisha and was appointed as the Governor of J&K by the President of India on 21st August 2018. He has also served as Union Minister of State and member of several Parliamentary Committees during his illustrious political career.

It is pertinent to mention that the Governor of J&K is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.



CEO Shrine Board hoists tricolour on I-Day at Katra

The 72nd Independence Day was celebrated with traditional fervour and patriotism at Katra, the base town for pilgrimage to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji. The main function was held at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex at Katra, where Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, hoisted the tricolour and took salute at an impressive march-past by the contingents drawn from CRPF, NCC Boys and Girls, Scouts and Guides, sports persons undergoing coaching at the Sports Complex.



Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, CEO Shrine Board taking salute at 72nd Independence Day function at Katra.

The CEO greeted the people on this joyous occasion. He also gave details of various major infrastructure developmental projects already completed by the Shrine Board, ongoing and those in the pipeline for facilitation of the pilgrims and for general development of Katra and its surrounding areas.

The students of various educational institutions presented a colourful cultural programme on this occasion based on the theme of patriotism, national integration and composite cultural heritage of the state and the country.

Sh. Gupta gave away prizes to the students who were adjudged best in the march-past and cultural events.

Among those present on the occasion were senior civil, police, security forces and Shrine Board officers, prominent citizens, heads of various educational institutions, media persons, a large

number of people of the area, teachers, school children and the pilgrims. As part of the Independence Day celebrations, CEO, SMVDSB also hoisted the tricolour at a function held at Central Office of the Shrine Board at Katra.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board celebrates 33rd Foundation Day

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day on 30th August 2018.

The historic day celebrations were marked by performing of Pooja, Havan, Yagya and organising of several other events at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Katra, Vaishnavi Dham, Jammu and other locations in which the staff of the Shrine Board and a large number of pilgrims participated.

At the culmination of these functions, *Prasad* was distributed among the pilgrims by the senior most officers of the respective areas and units of the Shrine Board. Employees of the Shrine Board took pledge on this occasion to perform their duties with sincerity and devotion.



Officers and staff of Shrine Board participating in Havan and Yagya organised on 33rd Foundation Day of SMVDSB.

At Katra, the main function was held at Niharika Complex where special Pooja and Havan was performed. Sh. Anshul Garg, Additional Chief Executive Officer; and other officers and staff of the Shrine Board, besides the pilgrims participated.

It is pertinent to recall that the Shrine Board was established on 30th August 1986 and since then this day is being celebrated by the Board as 'Foundation Day' every year.



SMVD Gurukul Annual Day

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, established by the Shrine Board in 2010 celebrated its Annual Day by organising an impressive function at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra on 30th August 2018.

Prof. S. Sudarsana Sharma, former Vice-Chancellor, Shri. Venkateswara Vedic University, Tirupati, was the Chief Guest on this occasion, while Prof. Y. K. Mishra, presided over the function. Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd), Member Shrine Board, was the Special Guest and Prof. Vishwamurty Shastri, was the Guest of Honour.



Prof. S. Sudarsana Sharma, former VC of Shri Venkateswara Vedic University, Tirupati presenting mementos to students.

Prof. Sharma lauded the efforts of Shrine Board in establishing the Gurukul and putting in place excellent facilities for imparting quality education in Sanskrit and other subjects for all-round development of the students pursuing their education in this institution. He advised the students to work hard and make best use of the facilities provided by the Board and also highlighted the importance of Sanskrit language. He congratulated the management, teachers, staff and students of the Gurukul for the academic and co-curricular excellence achieved by the students.

Prof. Sharma gave away prizes and certificates to the meritorious students on the occasion.

Prof. Mishra dwelt on the relevance of ancient Indian wisdom in modern life, while Prof. Vishwamurty Shastri threw light on the growth of the Gurukul during the past eight years.

Dr. M.K. Kumar, Addl. CEO of the Shrine Board, gave details about the functioning of the Gurukul.

Presently, 166 students are studying from class 6th to Shastri Part-II at this fully residential Gurukul

and the Shrine Board provides education, boarding, lodging, uniforms, books etc free of cost to all the students. The Shrine Board has also made elaborate arrangements for indoor and outdoor games at the Gurukul for holistic personality development of the students.

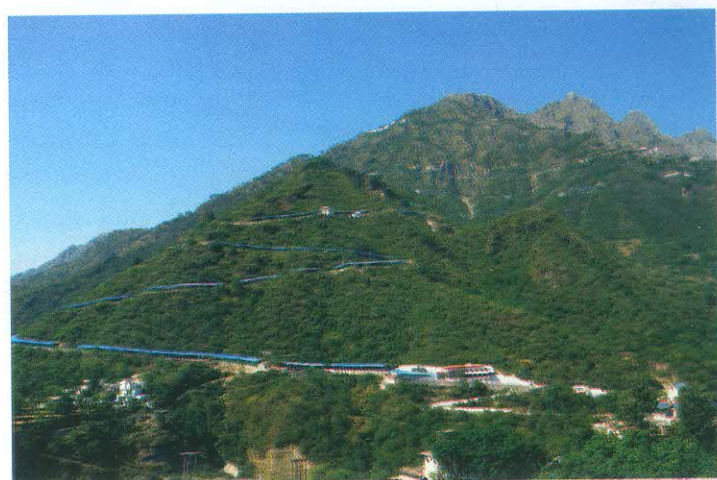
Sh. Anshul Garg, Additional CEO, SMVDSB, presented mementos to Prof. Sharma and other dignitaries, while Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. CEO, SMVDSB and Administrator of the Gurukul, presented a Vote of Thanks. Dr. Devendra Rijal, Vice Principal of the Gurukul, presented Annual Report of the institution highlighting the achievements registered in academics and co-curricular activities during the past one year.

On this occasion, the students of the Gurukul staged an impressive Sanskrit play, "Praan Ahuti" and a skit in Hindi "Sab Kuchh Sadak Par", based on the theme of patriotism and sanitation respectively.

Officers and staff of the Shrine Board, a large number of parents, students, faculty and staff of the Gurukul witnessed the function.

Tarakote Marg to have high tech Multipurpose Audio System

For facilitating on-foot pilgrims who use the scenic Tarakote Marg for their journey to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji, the work on installation of a hi-tech Multipurpose Audio System has commenced on this 7.5 km track from Katra to Adhkuwari.



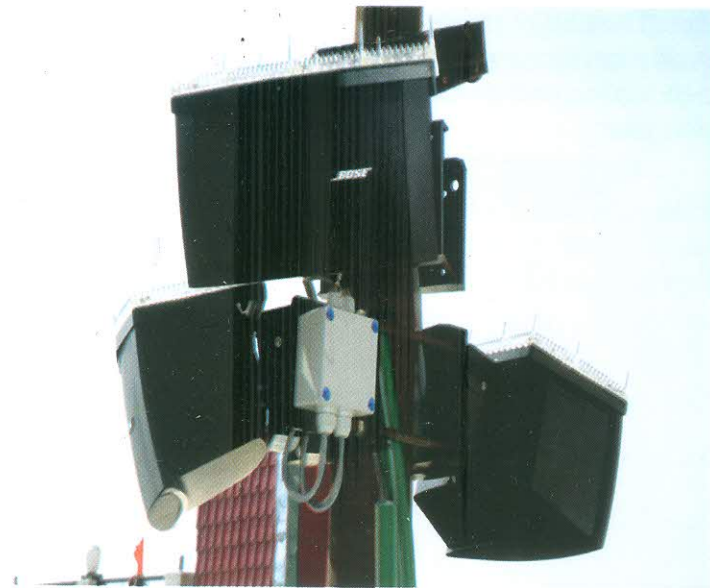
A panoramic view of Tarakote Marg.

This Audio System is being installed through M/s BOSE Corporation India Pvt. Ltd. at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.66 crore, which includes operation and



maintenance for 5 years. The project envisages installation of 15 booths and 550 speakers along the Tarakote Marg for the facilitation of pilgrims.

The system is expected to be operational by December this year and will play devotional music specially composed under the guidance of Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Santoor maestro (also Member of Shrine Board) and comprises 'Vedic Chants', 'Mantras', 'Stotras', 'Bhaints' and devotional music in Dogri language.



Hi-tech Audio system installed enroute Darshani Deodi to Bhawan.

It is pertinent to recall that a similar Multipurpose Audio System is operational along the pilgrimage track from Darshani Deodi to Bhawan and Bhairon since April 2016. It has ensured reliable and real time dissemination of informative advisories and announcements, besides effectuating the spiritual ambience for pilgrims moving on the track through devotional music.

This unique initiative of the Board has been widely appreciated by the pilgrims. The morning and evening live Atka Aarti from the Bhawan that is available to the pilgrims through the Audio System on the track has especially been appreciated.

New fleet of Battery Operated Car service deployed for facility of pilgrims

To facilitate the pilgrims, especially senior citizens and specially-abled pilgrims, pollution free Battery Operated Car service between Adhkuwari and

Bhawan on Himkoti Marg has been made available by the Board.



A fleet of new Battery Cars deployed between Adhkuwari and Bhawan on Himkoti Marg to facilitate pilgrims.

The new fleet of 25 Battery Operated Cars, including 5 reserve vehicles, has been deployed for facilitating maximum number of pilgrims. These vehicles have enhanced the comfortability and seating capacity of 7 pilgrims per vehicle in addition to driver besides ample luggage space. The new BOVs also give better mileage than the previous vehicles, thereby leading to more trips per day enabling around 1900 pilgrims to use BOV service. Earlier, a total of 20 Battery Operated Vehicles were being operated for ferrying of pilgrims between Adhkuwari and Bhawan on Himkoti Marg each undertaking at an average of 4-5 to and fro trips daily and facilitating around 800 pilgrims only.

The Board reviewed the matter and the need was felt to replace the old fleet of vehicles to facilitate more pilgrims with comfortable journey and to provide better safety features. Accordingly, after going through all the required procedures and followed by trial runs, Mahindra e-Supro vehicles were selected for use on the track keeping in view their superior mileage, carrying capacity and safety features.

The new vehicles have better safety features and a solid steel body to ensure safety of pilgrims from vagaries of weather and shooting stones. There is an average 7 operations of each Battery Car daily between 7.30 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. subject to weather and track conditions. The charges per passenger for 30 minute journey from Adhkuwari to Bhawan are



priced at Rs. 300/- and for the return journey from Bhawan to Adhkuwari the fare is Rs. 200/-. These fare charges are excluding GST. The booking for Battery Car service is available through current counters both at Adhkuwari and at Manokamna Bhawan. However, advance online booking exclusively for elderly citizens above 50 years of age has been made available on the official website of the Board from September 2018 onwards.

21.19 lakh pilgrims pay obeisance at the Shrine during 3rd quarter

As many as 21,19,732 pilgrims paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji during July-September 2018. Out of them, 7,48,713 pilgrims visited the Shrine during July; 6,90,646 in August and 6,80,373 in September. With this, the total number of pilgrims visiting the Shrine during the first 9 months of the current calendar year is 66,40,300 which is 1,28,061 more than the corresponding period of last year.

Refund Policy for cancellation of online helicopter and room bookings operational

The policy for providing 70% refund to the pilgrims on cancellation of pre-booked online helicopter tickets for travel on Katra-Sanjichhat-Katra Sector and rooms as well as dormitory bookings in the accommodations of the Board became operational w.e.f. 1st August 2018.



Pilgrims availing heli-service between Katra and Sanjichhat.

This significant step is aimed at convenience of pilgrims using the online mode of bookings. The pilgrims shall now be able to opt for cancellation of their advance booking of helicopter tickets for travel on Katra-Sanjichhat-Katra Sector and Shrine Board accommodations.

On receipt of such requests, a refund of 70% of the amount on both these counts shall be processed and amount credited back into the account of devotee.

This facility of refund will only be available for the pilgrims who cancel their bookings online on the website of Shrine Board at least four days in advance of the scheduled date of travel or stay.



A view of Kalika Dham to provide transit accommodation for pilgrims near Railway Station, Jammu.

A Standard Operating Procedure has been formulated and notified to regulate the new policy to check for any violations like bulk booking through a single user ID or creation of multiple user IDs by a single user.

Pertinent to mention that earlier, there was no such provision for cancellation of online bookings of the Shrine Board accommodations at Jammu, Katra, Bhawan and other locations, while only 50% amount was being refunded in case of cancellation of online helicopter bookings.



GB reviews functioning of SSH Kakryal

The 51st Governing Body meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), was held at Kakryal on 21st September 2018. Several significant decisions for gearing up this hospital to further enhance its operational capacities for providing best possible patient care to an increased number of patients were taken in this meeting.

The Governing Body took note of the launching of Ayushman Bharat Scheme and empanelment of this hospital with CGHS. It was felt that keeping this in view, the footfall of patients is likely to increase at the SSH Kakryal and wherever required, the diagnostic and treatment facilities besides other logistics are required to be augmented in tune with the emerging requirements.



A view of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal.

In order to cater to the increasing requirements of patients requiring dialysis procedures, the Governing Body decided to intensify this facility by acquiring more dialysis machines. Besides, it was decided that the dialysis facility shall be provided to the patients in the SMVDNSH, Kakryal on Sundays as well. Considering the emerging requirements, the number of billing and registration counters in the hospital will also be enhanced. The improvements in the soft skills of the staff to largely facilitate the patients and their attendants will also be endeavoured.

Sh. B. B. Vyas, Member Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body and Finance and Audit Committee of the Hospital; chaired the meeting. Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr. M. K. Kumar, Additional CEO of the Board; Dr. (Brig) M. M. Harjai, Chief Administrative Officer, SMVDNSH; and Sh. M. M. Gupta, Chief Engineer were present from the Shrine Board side. Dr. Ashutosh Raghuvanshi, Vice Chairman, MD and Group CEO, NH; Sh. Sunil Kumar CN, Regional Director, NH; Sh. A. Nagarajan, Senior Vice President Finance, NH; Cdr. Navneet Bali, Director Northern Region, NH; Sh. Manu Ramachandar, Facility Director and Dr. Saumya Ahuja, Medical Superintendent of the hospital, participated in the deliberations on behalf of Narayana Health.

The GB noted with satisfaction the functioning of the hospital which has been treating a lot of critical and moribund cases successfully. In this perspective, it was informed that recently, twin babies born with severe respiratory distress, generalised edema, ascites and meconium aspiration syndrome were treated successfully by this hospital. They were resuscitated and incubated in the operation theatre itself and remained on ventilator for 4 days followed by critical intensive care. One of the babies had hypoglycaemia, congestive cardiac failure, acute kidney injury and hyperbilirubinemia for which the baby was managed efficiently. The intensive high quality neonatal care provided at NICU of this hospital saved the lives of the twins.

Sh. B. B Vyas also went around the various wards and facilities of the hospital and interacted with the patients and their attendants.



Sh. B. B. Vyas interacting with patients and their attendants at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal.



Nursing College to adopt best practices to become centre of excellence

The 26th meeting of the Governing Body of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, was held on 18th July 2018. Several matters relating to the future growth and development of the college as a centre of excellence in nursing education were discussed in the meeting. It was emphasised that SMVDCoN shall strive to become leader in providing quality nursing education that is responsive to the needs of the society and shaping of the future health care at larger level.

The meeting was chaired by Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd), Member Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of the College of Nursing; Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Dr. M. K. Kumar, Additional CEO; Dr. V. Verma, Dean, SMVDU; Dr. (Brig) Man Mohan Harjai, Administrator of the SMVDCoN; Dr. J. P. Singh, Senior Consultant (Neurology, SMVDNSH) and Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal of the College of Nursing, participated in the deliberations.



Nursing College students learning CPR techniques.

The meeting discussed the database regarding the best practices followed by various renowned nursing colleges in the country and at global level. It was decided that those implementable at the SMVDCoN will be examined and based on these the most suitable ones will be evolved and adopted in this institution in a phased manner. This will be a part of the under formulation 10-year 'Vision Plan' which, interalia, envisages developing SMVDCoN as a pioneering institution in imparting top quality nursing education from B. Sc. to the Ph. D. Level.

Capacity building training programmes

Continuing with its initiatives to enhance the skill and competence of employees to face new challenges and broaden their horizon for adoption of new technologies and techniques aimed at improving delivery of services, Shrine Board organised 46 training programmes on varied subjects for the staff during July-September 2018, benefitting 916 employees, as part of the Annual Training Calendar 2018-19.

Pertinent to mention that it is incumbent upon every employee of the Board to attend at least one training programme during the year and the outcomes are reflected in the APRs of concerned employee.



Staff participating in training programme on improved sanitation techniques.

SMVDSB celebrates National Sports Day

At the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, tournaments for Basketball, Fencing and Shooting were organized as part of celebration of the National Sports Day at Katra on 29th August 2018. 13 teams of Basketball, 45 fencers and 10 shooters drawn from various sports clubs and educational institutions from Katra and surrounding areas besides campers of the Sports Complex participated in these tournaments.

Sh. Anshul Garg, Additional CEO of the Shrine Board, gave away prizes to the winners and runner up teams of Basketball, Fencing and Shooting competitions. Floral tributes were paid to the hockey wizard, Late Major Dhyani Chand, in whose honour National Sports Day is celebrated every year on 29th August.



Players participating in basketball tournament organised as part of celebration of 'National Sports Day' at Sports Complex, Katra.

Shrine Board coached Archers win Gold Medal in World Ranking Para Archery Championship

The Indian Team comprising Rakesh Kumar, Tarif and Shyam Sunder defeated Romania in finals to win the first ever gold medal for the country in the World Ranking Para Archery Championship held in the Czech Republic, which concluded on 7th July 2018. Rakesh Kumar and Tarif have undergone coaching at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex at Katra under the guidance of Sh. Kuldeep Vedwan, who accompanied the Indian Archery contingent in the tournament.



Shrine Board coached Archers win Gold medal in World Ranking Para Archery Championship.

Jyoti Balian, another para Archer who has been trained at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, secured 7th place in the Compound Archery category in this World Ranking Para Archery Championship.

All of them have been undergoing coaching and practice at the Sports Complex at Katra for the past more than a year. Rakesh Kumar is a localite from Katra.



A magnificent view of Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra.

Special Coaching Camps are regularly organised at the Sports Complex in the disciplines of Archery, Athletics, Basketball, Badminton and Shooting to impart specialised coaching to the sports persons.

The specialised coaching aimed at providing of state-of-the-art facilities has been showing promising results at various competitions.

The Sports Complex organised several sporting events during the period including Sports Talent Search Contest held on 23rd-24th July in which 205 students of Katra area took part, a 10- day shooting camp and district level Fencing tournament in which 120 students participated.

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