



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Trikuta

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1 - Issue 4

October - December 2018

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Governor inaugurates Bhawan-Bhairon Ghati Passenger Ropeway

Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on December 24, 2018 e-inaugurated Bhawan-Bhairon Passenger Ropeway, a high-tech project completed by the Shrine Board for facilitation of the pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji.

Dr. S. S. Bloeria, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Sh. H. L. Maini and Sh. Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli, all Board Members; Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to the Governor; former CEOs of Shrine Board, Sh. Raj Kumar Goyal, Sh. Navin Choudhary and Sh. Ajeet Kumar Sahu were present at function held in Raj Bhavan. Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO and other officers of Shrine Board were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Satya Pal Malik complimented the officers and engineers of the Shrine Board who worked to make this mega project a reality. Shri Malik also recalled the efforts made by former Chairman and officers who have remained associated with the project. He advised the Shrine Board to take all possible steps to make the ropeway service hassle free. He particularly emphasised on the rescue and relief part of the ropeway which according to the Governor should be of international standards.



Governor, Sh. Satya Pal Malik inaugurating Passenger Ropeway on 24-12-2018



The Passenger Ropeway Project completed by the Shrine Board at a cost of about Rs. 85 crore, including its allied infrastructure and related pilgrim-centric facilities, has a carrying capacity of 800 persons per hour and with the completion of this ambitious project, the pilgrims, particularly the elderly and specially-abled who were earlier deterred by steep climb to Bhairon Ji Temple situated at an altitude of 6600 feet, shall fulfil their wish of paying obeisance at Bhairon Ji Temple after Darshan at Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji.

The Ropeway has reduced the travel time of the one way journey between Bhawan and Bhairon Temple from one hour to just about three minutes. The Board has decided to charge a highly subsidized to and fro ticket of Rs. 100 only per passenger to enable the maximum number of pilgrims to avail this facility.

The Bhawan-Bhairon Passenger Ropeway Project has been executed by a consortium of M/s Garaventa AG, Switzerland and M/s Damodar Ropeways Construction Co. (P) Ltd., Kolkata under the consultancy and overall supervision of M/s RITES Ltd. The Electro-Mechanical Components and Cabins of the Ropeway have been imported from Switzerland. The Passenger Ropeway System has been fully equipped with all safety norms as per relevant standards and codes. The Passenger Ropeway has two fully enclosed spacious Cabins with a carrying capacity of 40-45 persons in each Cabin.

Before commissioning of project special drills and trial runs were conducted over a period of several weeks, to assess passenger flow and safety features.

Governor visits Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on November 30 visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum. He prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the State.

The Governor took stock of infrastructural facilities and other logistics put in place by the Shrine Board for the pilgrims and emphasised the need for providing best possible arrangements for the yatris. He also reviewed medicare, drinking water, power supply, sanitation and security arrangements for the pilgrims.

The Governor complimented the entire team of



Governor, Sh. Satya Pal Malik at Holy Shrine on 30-11-2018

safaikaramcharis and their supervisors for providing a clean ambience in Shrine area and winning the cleanest religious place award at the national level recently.



Governor, Sh. Satya Pal Malik interacting with pilgrims at Holy Cave Shrine on 30-11-2018

In recognition of services of dedicated team of safaikaramcharis (SKCs), the Governor announced an additional two and a half day salary for all the SKCs as a special one-time incentive. He hoped that they will continue to render their services with same zeal and dedication.

Sh. B. B. Vyas, the then Member of the Shrine Board was also present on the occasion.

Over 85.86 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in 2018

During 2018, 85,86,541 pilgrims visited the Holy Cave Shrine, thereby registering an increase of 4,08,223 pilgrims over the previous year figure of 81,78,318 yatris. 19,46,241 pilgrims paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum during the last quarter of the year.



Rush of pilgrims at the Holy Shrine on the eve of New Year

63rd Meeting of SMVDSB Policy for providing free treatment to trauma victims approved, Tarakote Marg to have hi-tech audio system

The 63rd meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was held at the Raj Bhavan, Srinagar under the chairmanship of Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman of the Shrine Board, on 13th October 2018.

The meeting was attended by Dr. S. S. Bloeria, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Sh. H. L. Maini, Sh. Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma and Sh. B. B. Vyas, all Board Members; and Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to the Governor; Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, the then Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then designate Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Dr. M. K. Kumar and Sh. Anshul Garg, the then Additional Chief Executive Officers.

The Governor chairing the first meeting of the Board since his taking over, complimented the Board Members and lauded their commitment and valuable contribution in creating and continually upgrading facilities for convenience of the pilgrims.

The Governor reviewed the implementation of the Master Plan for Bhawan and the Extended Shrine Area prepared by the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, to be executed in phases and directed the CEO of the Board to ensure timely implementation of the various components of the Master Plan for establishing infrastructural facilities for the visiting pilgrims in a planned and holistic manner. He also emphasised on expeditious planning and construction of New Durga Bhawan for providing on-floor free of cost accommodation facilities for the

pilgrims by maximising the utilisation of space.

The meeting reviewed the functioning of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal and approved a Medical Support Policy for the treatment of victims of public trauma under its social support initiative at the Superspeciality Hospital. The beneficiaries in this policy will include public trauma victims of road accidents, landslides or shooting stone incidents and such calamities from the surrounding areas of the Shrine referred to the hospital by the concerned Deputy Commissioners to provide emergency medical aid. Medical assistance shall be provided in all such cases by the Shrine Board till the stabilisation of the patient upto a ceiling of Rs. 2 lakh as a goodwill gesture for such critical cases.



Governor, Sh. Satya Pal Malik chairing 63rd meeting of SMVDSB at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar on 13-10-2018

Other significant decisions taken in the meeting include installation of a hi-tech Multipurpose Audio System along the Tarakote Marg from Katra to Adhkuwari which will have 15 booths and 550 speakers and shall play devotional music and spiritual songs comprising "Chants", "Mantras", "Stotras", Bhaints and devotional music in Dogri language besides ensuring reliable and real time dissemination of informative advisories and announcements. The Board approved the proposal for upgradation of medical facilities on the track and decided to establish a new fully equipped Medical Unit at Lambi Keri to meet medical exigencies on Adhkuwari-Sanjichhat sector. It was also decided to purchase two ambulances including one additional critical care ambulance. Besides, heli-evacuation of critical cardiac and other seriously ailing patients from Sanjichhat and Panchhi Helipads to the Helipad at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for specialised medical care at the Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal on the Board's expenses was also approved by the Board.



The Board approved enhancement of Group Accidental Insurance cover for the pilgrims. The accidental cover extended to each pilgrim free of cost shall now be Rs. 5 lakh for the pilgrims aged 5 years and above and Rs. 3 lakh for the pilgrims below 5 years of age. The Board also approved additional life insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh to the pilgrims who avail the service of the Passenger Ropeway between Bhawan and Bhairon Ghati.

The Board also approved a scheme for institutionalising fellowships for the top five meritorious students of Shastri classes of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra for pursuing Acharya or equivalent Post-Graduation Course in Sanskrit, Jyotish, Darshan and Ved streams in the leading institutions of the country.

Annual Day function of SMVDCoN **Governor congratulates student nurses for pursuing noble profession of nursing**

A Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony of the 3rd Batch of B. Sc. Nursing students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, and the Annual Day function of this institution was held at the Auditorium of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, on November 30.

Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, was the Chief Guest.



Governor, Sh. Satya Pal Malik giving mementos to outstanding students at the annual day function of SMVDCoN on 30-11-2018

Dr. Ashok Bhan and Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Members of the Shrine Board; Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University; and Sh. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to the Governor; were present on the occasion. Earlier, on arrival at University Helipad from Jammu, the

Governor was received by Sh. B. B. Vyas, the then Member Shrine Board and Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, among others.

Speaking at the function, the Governor said that this College is imparting top quality nursing education, adding that it will produce highly qualified and trained nurses who will help in strengthening the functioning of the health sector in state. Referring to the Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony, the Governor observed that this is an important occasion in every nursing student's life as it reiterates commitment of the nurses to adhere to the highest professional values and standards. He congratulated the student nurses for embarking on this noble profession and wished them a prosperous future ahead.

The Governor gave away mementos and prizes to the students who excelled in academics and co-curricular activities during the past year.

In his welcome address, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Member of the Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of the SMVDCoN, gave details of the achievements of the College in academics and extra-curricular activities.

Dr. (Brig) M. M. Harjai, Administrator of the Nursing College, presented a Vote of Thanks. Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal of the SMVDCoN, administered the Oath to the students and presented the Annual Report of the College.

Safaigiri Awards 2018 **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine declared Cleanest Religious Place in Country**

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine won the prestigious 'Cleanest Religious Place' award at Safaigiri Summit and Awards 2018 ceremony organised by the India Today Group in Mumbai on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. The award was given in recognition of the significant strides made by the Shrine Board in ensuring sanitation and cleanliness all along the tracks and in the entire Shrine area, which includes 13 km of hilly track from base camp Katra.

The award was received by Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, the then CEO of the Shrine Board from Sh. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways in the presence of Sh. Aroon Purie, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief, India Today Group.



Shrine Board has been recognized for such an award for the second successive year. In the year 2017, Shrine Board received the 'Special Swachh Iconic Place' award under the category of Swachh Iconic Places, under the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign of the Government of India, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.



Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, the then CEO Shrine Board receiving 'Cleanest Religious Place' award on Gandhi Jayanti at Mumbai

The Shrine Board besides making concerted efforts and promoting novel initiatives to ensure utmost hygiene for the visiting pilgrims, has been continuously striving to keep all its establishments and the entire Shrine area polythene free.

Simrandeep takes over as new CEO Shrine Board

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, on 15th October, took over the charge of the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board from Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, the outgoing CEO, who has been posted as Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi.



Sh. Simrandeep Singh taking over as new CEO of Shrine Board on 15-10-2018

The officers and staff of the Shrine Board organised an impressive function to bid farewell to Sh. Gupta, the outgoing CEO, and to welcome Sh. Singh, the new CEO of the Shrine Board.

CEO Shrine Board conducts staff grievance redressal camps at Bhawan, Sanjichhat

In continuation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's endeavour to reach out to its employees to ensure good workplace environment for all its employees and settle grievances on spot, Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, accompanied by a team of officers, held interactive sessions with the staff at Bhawan and Sanjichhat on 14th November. The team of officers which accompanied the CEO included Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. Chief Executive Officer and Sh. Naresh Kumar, SDM Bhawan.



Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO Shrine Board giving prizes to outstanding students of Middle School, Sanjichhat on 14-11-2018

The CEO gave patient hearing to the demands put forth in these camps and assured employees of earliest resolution. The CEO enumerated various measures which have already been taken for the general welfare of the employees of the Board. The CEO also lauded the efforts made by the staff in ensuring smooth facilitation of pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine. He particularly appreciated the team of 800 odd Safaikaramcharis who were instrumental in Shrine's winning the prestigious 'Cleanest Religious Place' award at Safaigiri Summit organised by the India Today Group in Mumbai this year.

Later, the CEO and other officers also participated in the Children's Day function organised by the Middle School, Sanjichhat. The CEO announced setting up of a smart classroom and informed that the matter will also be taken up with the concerned authorities for upgradation of this institution to the high school level. He also distributed prizes among the meritorious students and participants of cultural programmes.



Vyas resigns from Board; appointed UPSC Member

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11 of the Jammu and Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act, 1988, Shri Satya Pal Malik, Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (Governor of Jammu and Kashmir) accepted the resignation of Shri Bharat Bhushan Vyas as Member of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 11th December 2018. Shri Vyas has been appointed as Member of the Union Public Service Commission.

GB meeting of SMVDNSH Chemotherapy and Endoscopy facilities to be extended in Jammu OPD

The 54th Governing Body meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), Kakryal, was held at Kakryal on December 21 to review the functioning of the hospital. Several important decisions were taken for further expanding and upgrading the diagnostic and treatment facilities in the interest of ensuring highest standards of patient care in consonance with the emerging requirements.

Dr. S. S. Bloeria, Member Shrine Board, chaired the meeting, which was attended by Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr. (Brig) Man Mohan Harjai, Chief Administrative Officer, SMVDNSH; Sh. M. M. Gupta, Chief Engineer; and Sh. Manu Hansa, Assistant CEO from the Shrine Board side. Those who took part in the Governing Body meeting deliberations on behalf of NVDSHPL/ NH included Sh. Viren Shetty, Senior Vice President, Strategy and Planning, NH; Sh. Sunil Kumar CN, Regional Director, NH; Cdr. Navneet Bali, Director Northern Region, NH; Sh. Manu Ramachandar, Facility Director; Sh. K. S. Dattatreya, designate Facility Director and Dr. Saumya Ahuja, Medical Superintendent of the hospital.

The Governing Body while expressing satisfaction at the functioning of the SSH, Kakryal, emphasized on the need of intensifying endeavours and taking all requisite measures to further upgrade and expand the services, wherever required. In this context, the meeting was informed that to further augment

dialysis facility for the patients at this 230-bedded tertiary care hospital, 10 more dialysis machines have been made operational. With this, the total number of dialysis machines functioning in the SSH, Kakryal has gone upto 24. Further, the Front Office desks of the hospital have been strengthened by adding more manpower to facilitate the patients.

Reviewing the status of the SMVDNSH in regard to its empanelment with the various organisations for providing cashless treatment, the GB was informed that such an arrangement has been put in place with CGHS, ESIC, NHPC, FCI, RBI, CRPF, BSF, the various Public and Private Insurance Companies and TPAs. The hospital also offers a 15% discount to the employees of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank for the Indoor Treatment.



Dr. S. S. Bloeria, Member Shrine Board chairing 54th Governing Body meeting of SMVDNSH at Kakryal on 21-12-2018

The GB while taking a review of the functioning of the Jammu OPD of the SMVDNSH decided to further expand the services at its existing OPD Centre at Sansar Tower, near Bahu Plaza, Jammu for the convenience of the patients. For this purpose, the GB discussed short, medium and long term measures. As part of this expansion programme, a 6-bedded Chemotherapy Unit and Endoscopy facility will be set up shortly at the Jammu OPD. It is pertinent to mention that this Day Care Centre of the hospital provides an easy access to the patients of Jammu and nearby areas for regular check-up and follow ups.

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organised at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya was organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Cave



Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji on 10th October on the auspicious occasion of commencement of Navratras and concluded with Purna Ahuti on occasion of Mahanavami on 18th October. The Maha Yagya is organised by the Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine every year during Navratras for peace and prosperity.



Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO and other officers of Shrine Board participating in Purna Ahuti at Bhawan on Mahanavami on 18-10-2018

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; other officers of the Board, besides a large number of pilgrims participated in Purna Ahuti.

As in the past, the Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji, Atka and the area surrounding it were elegantly caparisoned with floral decoration. The Board had also made elaborate arrangements for the sanitation, security, drinking water, special Navratra food and uninterrupted power supply all along the track.

Shrine Board and Reasi administration hold joint security review of SMVD Shrine

To review the security arrangements for pilgrimage to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji, a joint review meeting of Shrine Board and District administration, Reasi, was held at Katra on 13th December. Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr. Sagar Dattatray Doifode, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi; Ms. Nisha Nathyal, SSP Reasi; Sh. Jitendra Kumar Gupta, Commandant, 6th Bn. CRPF; Sh. Amit Vermani, Dy. CEO, SMVDSB; Sh. Ashok Kumar, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Katra; Sh. Naresh Singh, Additional SP, Katra; Sh. P. C. Tanoch, Executive Engineer, SMVDSB and other concerned officers and engineers of the Shrine Board participated in the meeting.

The overall security scenario of the Shrine was discussed in the meeting especially peak rush that the yatra witnesses on 31st December every year. Besides, various long and short term measures that are required to be taken for strengthening the security grid of the yatra routes, vital installations etc., came up for discussion in the meeting. It was decided that all requisite arrangements including additional CCTV Cameras wherever required and more number of luggage as well as material x-ray scanners will be installed to enhance the vigil and ensure quick and coordinated response of security agencies dealing with the security of the Shrine. The CEO also stressed upon undertaking of extensive patrolling all along the track, particularly on Tarakote Marg.

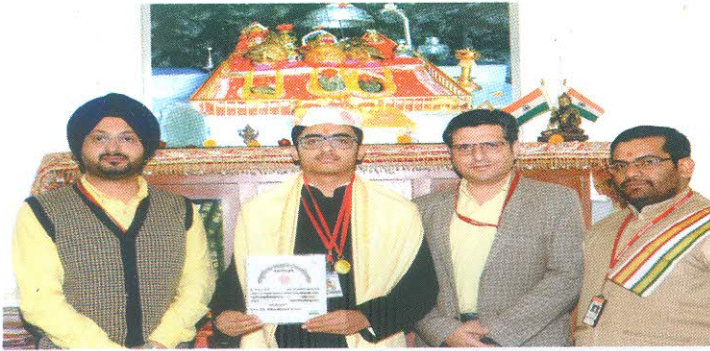


Security arrangements for pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine being reviewed at a joint meeting of officers of Shrine Board and District Administration, Reasi on 13-12-2018

Master Madhav of Gurukul secures 1st position in University

Master Madhav Sharma, student of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, has secured first position in the class 8th examination conducted by the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, in May 2018. On his outstanding achievement, Master Madhav Sharma was awarded Vakratund Shukul Swaran Padak (Gold Medal) by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, at convocation of university held at Varanasi.

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, congratulated Master Madhav on this remarkable achievement and felicitated him on 19th November. The CEO said that the excellent coaching and infrastructural facilities provided by the Shrine Board and the hard work being put in by the students has resulted in spectacular performance by the students of the Gurukul in academic and co-curricular activities.



Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO Shrine Board felicitating Master Madhav of Gurukul on 19-11-2018

Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. CEO, SMVDSB and Administrator of the Gurukul and Dr. Devendra Rijal, Vice Principal were also present on the occasion.

Besides excelling in academics, the students of the Gurukul have been bringing laurels by their outstanding achievements in the co-curricular activities as well. 54 students of the Gurukul participated in a Rashtra Katha Shivir organised by Shri Vedic Mission Trust from 23rd to 30th December at Pransla in District Rajkot of Gujarat. 18 students of Shastri class of the Gurukul took part in the Heritage Walk organised by the Surinsar-Mansar Development Authority at Babore, Manwal on 25th November.

15 students of the SMVD Gurukul also participated in the state level Shastriya Sparda organised by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan at Jammu on November 16 and 12 of these students secured 1st position. Of them, 9 students were selected for national level Sanskrit competition to be organised by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan at Ekalavya Campus, Agartala, Tripura in January 2019.

HR initiatives

To enhance skills of its staff for adopting new technologies, Shrine Board organised 24 training programmes on varied subjects during October-December, benefitting 431 employees.

CEO felicitates archers for participation in Jakarta Asian Para Games

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO felicitated Sh. Rakesh Kumar and Ms. Jyoti Vallian, the two archers

who participated in the 12th Asian Para Archery Games held in October 2018 at Jakarta, Indonesia. Sh. Kuldeep Vaidwan, Archery Coach of the Shrine Board, who accompanied the Indian Para Archery contingent to Jakarta, was also felicitated. Sh. Rakesh Kumar and Ms. Jyoti Vallian have been trained by the Shrine Board at its Sports Complex Coaching Centre at Katra. They secured 10th and 7th places respectively in the championship.

Important events held at the Sports Complex during the period include, a week long Martial Art-cum-Self Defence Coaching Camp for girls, State Level Inter-Division Volleyball Tournament for boys and girls, Inter-Divisional State Level Kho-Kho Championship for boys and girls under the age group of 14-19 years in collaboration with Department of Youth Services and Sports. Ms. Shruti Sharma of Sports Complex participated in 62nd National Shooting Championship at Thiruvananthapuram. Seven Archers from Shrine Board's Sports Complex took part in Pre-International Trial for Recurve & Compound Archery held at SAI, Sonapat, Haryana in November.



Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO Shrine Board felicitating archers for participating in 12th Asian Jakarta Para Archery Games on 23-10-2018

Other events held at the Sports Complex during the quarter include semi-final Football match of National School Games and District level sporting activities held under Khelo India from 24 to 28 December. Besides, 250 students from various schools of Jammu division participated under SAMAGRA programme in four days special camp hosted between 21st to 24th December at Sports Complex.

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