



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

# Trikuta

A Quarterly Newsletter

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### Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine adjudged the Best Swachh Iconic Place President of India gives award to CEO Shrine Board

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine has received the prestigious 'Best Swachh Iconic Place' award under the category of Swachh Iconic Places, an initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission launched by the Government of India. The award has been given in recognition of the overall improvement in sanitation brought out by the Board due to several initiatives taken in last few years to ensure cleanliness in the entire Shrine area.

The award was given by Sh. Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, at a ceremony held in connection with the Swachh Mahotsav at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 6 September. The Swachh Mahotsav was organized by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The prestigious award was received on behalf of Shrine Board by Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer.

The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, had earlier released its rankings of Swachh Iconic Places, in



President of India, Sh. Ram Nath Kovind giving award to CEO Shrine Board, Sh. Simrandeep Singh at New Delhi on 06.09.2019.

which Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine was adjudged as the Best Swachh Iconic Place in the country. This is the third successive year of the Board being awarded in the field of sanitation at national level.

### Governor announces one week's additional salary for sanitation staff as special reward

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, met Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman of the Shrine Board, at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar on 10 September.



CEO Shrine Board meets Governor Satya Pal Malik.

The Chairman of the Shrine Board complimented the CEO and all employees of the Board, particularly the sanitation staff, who by dint of their hardwork won the best Swachh Iconic place in the country award for the Shrine and brought laurels at the national level. As an encouragement to the dedicated team of sanitation staff, the Governor announced one week's additional salary for the sanitation staff as a special one-time incentive.

### Gold plated entrance at traditional Cave dedicated to pilgrims during ongoing Navratras

The magnificent gold plated entrance of the traditional Holy Cave of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, nestled in the Trikuta Hills was dedicated during ongoing Navratras for darshan of devotees amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and performing of Pooja and other religious ceremonies.



A magnificent view of gold plated Dwar at traditional Cave of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji during Navratras.

### Project "Every life matters" launched Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital to perform free child heart surgeries in partnership with 'Have a Heart Foundation', Ludhiana

Strengthening its commitment to provide quality healthcare services to all sections of society, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in association with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal, entered into a partnership with Punjab based "Have a Heart Foundation" to sponsor heart procedures for children within the age bracket of one day to 16 years, belonging to economically poor background. The partnership will witness the Kakryal based Narayana Hospital, along with Have a Heart Foundation, launch a project called "Every life matters". The project will provide highly subsidised treatment support to children belonging to economically backward families suffering from congenital heart ailments.

President of the Ludhiana based Foundation, Sh. Balbir Kumar, met Sh. Satya Pal Malik, Governor, J&K, and Chairman of Shrine Board, at Raj Bhavan, Jammu on 14 September and briefed him about this important project. Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO of the Board and Sh. K. S. Dattatreya, Facility Director of the Kakryal hospital were also present on the occasion.



Governor Satya Pal Malik being briefed about "Every Life Matters" project by Sh. Balbir Kumar, Chairman "Have a Heart Foundation".

Ludhiana based Have a Heart Foundation has been sponsoring patients since 2012 and so far around 200 children have benefitted from this noble initiative. The Foundation already partners with leading health institutions in Ludhiana and Bengaluru to carry forward its mission. Based on the interest shown by SMVDSB and the competence of Kakryal hospital, particularly in field of Cardiology, the present partnership has been finalised in which the Shrine Board and the



Foundation will jointly bear the burden of these surgeries. It is pertinent to mention that more than 60 patients from J&K alone are in long waiting, ranging from 1-2 years, in leading health institutions for such procedures. This initiative will immediately bring succour to these families.

The Governor appreciated the efforts of the Foundation and assured full cooperation and assistance from Shrine Board.

### Shrine Board celebrates Foundation Day

Performing of Pooja, Havan, Yagya and organizing of several other events marked the celebration of 34th Foundation Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on 30 August. These functions were organised at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Katra, 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 to the pilgrims and employees of Shrine Board took pledge to perform their duties with sincerity and devotion.



Pooja and Havan being performed to mark celebration of 34<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Board at Katra.

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO SMVDSB congratulated staff of the Shrine Board on Foundation Day and impressed upon them to work with utmost zeal and dedication for providing continuously improving facilities to the pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

At Katra, the main function was held at Niharika Complex where special Pooja and Havan was performed. Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO of the Shrine Board; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; other officers and employees of the Board as well as large number of pilgrims participated.

### SMVD Gurukul celebrates Annual Day

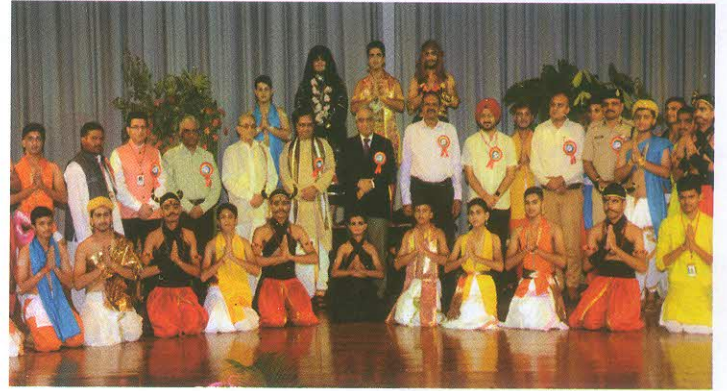
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, celebrated its Annual Day at an impressive function at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University on 30 August.

Prof. Rajaram Shukla, Vice Chancellor, Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board presided over the function and Prof. Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, was the Guest of Honour. Prof. Y. K. Mishra and Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri were the special guests on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shukla lauded the Shrine Board for establishing the Gurukul and congratulated the management, Acharyas, teachers, staff and students of the Gurukul on the Annual Day. He gave away prizes and certificates to the meritorious students.

Dr. Bhan congratulated the students for their outstanding performance in both academics and co-curricular activities.

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO of the Shrine Board, presented mementos to Prof. Shukla and other dignitaries on this occasion.



Gurukul students with dignitaries after performing Sanskrit play.

Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. CEO, SMVDSB and Administrator of the Gurukul, presented welcome address while Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal of the Gurukul, presented Annual Report of the institution. Dr. Devendra Rijal, Vice Principal of the Gurukul, presented vote of thanks.

On this occasion, the students of the Gurukul staged an impressive Sanskrit play, "Madhyama Vyay Yog" and other cultural items which were highly appreciated by the audience.



## Shat Chandi Maha Yagya commences at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji commenced on 29 September on the auspicious occasion of commencement of Navratras. The Maha Yagya, which is performed at the Holy Cave Shrine during Navratras for peace and prosperity, will conclude with Purna Ahuti on Mahanavami.



Commencement of Shat Chandi Maha Yagya at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine on 1<sup>st</sup> Navratra.

Sh. K. K. Sharma, Member Shrine Board; Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO of the Board; Sh. Naresh Kumar, SDM Bhawan; other senior officers of Board and a large number of pilgrims were present on the occasion. Like in past, Board has made elaborate arrangements to facilitate much larger number of pilgrims who are likely to visit Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine during Navratras. These arrangements include round the clock water and power supply, sanitation and cleanliness, medicare and availability of special "fast related" food at the catering outlets of the Shrine Board. On this occasion, CEO of the Board also formally inaugurated a cultural programme facility for yatris at Tarakote Langar which will showcase the rich local culture and will be performed by a team of Shrine Board officials on weekends.

### Monsoon plantation drive in Trikuta Hills

Shrine Board is making continuous endeavour to conserve the environment and green the Trikuta Hills and the spaces along the tracks leading to the Shrine. Towards achieving this objective, the Shrine Board under its monsoon programme of Annual Greening Plan, launched plantation drive on 12 July at Adhkuwari under which 1.50 lakh saplings were planted in the Shrine area. These included forest,

horticulture, floriculture, medicinal and ornamental species.



CEO watering a newly planted sapling of Peepal at Adhkuwari.

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, launched the plantation drive by planting saplings of Peepal, Bargad and other species of trees at Adhkuwari. Thereafter, a massive plantation drive was undertaken in Adhkuwari area in which a large number of visiting pilgrims and the staff of the Shrine Board took part. Among those present on the occasion were Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; Sh. Deepak Dubey, Dy. Chief Executive Officer and Sh. Vinay Khajuria, ACF.

### Shrine Board dedicates additional facilities to pilgrims

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB on 11 July inaugurated a number of pilgrim-centric infrastructural facilities at Katra and Adhkuwari put in place by the Shrine Board at a cost of over Rs. 5.75 crore.

22 rooms at Niharika Complex, Katra were rededicated to pilgrims after complete renovation and refurbishments. The newly renovated Annapoorna Bhojanalaya in the Niharika Complex was also dedicated to pilgrims. Both these works have been completed at a cost of Rs. 85 lakh. The remaining rooms in the Niharika Complex are also being taken up for complete renovation and it is proposed to renovate and refurbish the entire Niharika accommodation by June 2020.

Accompanied by a team of concerned officers and engineers, the CEO also took stock of infrastructure at Darshani Deodi which has been recently refurbished



by way of replacement of the earlier stone with carved marble stone involving a cost of Rs. 25 lakh. At Adhkuwari, the CEO inaugurated a 4-storey earthquake resistant Toilet Block having modern facilities. With built up area of 8760 sft, this Rs. 2.70 crore Toilet Block, is the biggest Toilet Complex in the Shrine area. The Toilet meets the requirements of the senior citizens and specially-abled persons. It also has an elevator, lockers, 4-room accommodation for sanitation staff and store, etc. The rooftop of the Toilet Block which is at the track level provides resting place for the pilgrims, particularly during rains.



CEO inaugurating biggest Toilet Complex at Adhkuwari.

The CEO also operationalised Rs. 1.78 crore 400 KLD STP based on MBBR technology at Adhkuwari. This centralised STP connects all the Toilet Blocks in Adhkuwari Sector such as Hathimatha, Lambi Keri and Adhkuwari. He also inspected work on covering of View Points completed at a cost of Rs. 18 lakh, and inspected sites identified for creation of more facilities for the yatris at Adhkuwari and on Tarakote Marg.

### **GB members spend night at Hospital to have first-hand patient feedback**

The 58th Governing Body meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), was held at Kakryal on 3 August. The meeting took several important decisions to further enhance the operational capacities of the hospital, wherever required, for providing highest standards of

patient care at the 230-bedded tertiary care hospital in tune with the emerging requirements.



58th GB meeting of SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of the SMVDNSH, chaired the meeting, and Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd), Member Shrine Board; Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO of Shrine Board; Sh. Viren Shetty, Group Chief Operating Officer, NH; and Cdr. Navneet Bali, Director, Northern Region, NH; who all are the Members of the Governing Body, participated in the deliberations. Among those who also took part in the meeting included Dr. (Brig) Man Mohan Harjai, Chief Administrative Officer, SMVDNSH; Sh. K. S. Dattatreya, Facility Director; and Dr. (Col.) R. C. Sahni, Medical Superintendent of the hospital.

Earlier, Dr. Bhan along with Members of the GB stayed the night at hospital to gather first hand feedback of patients and examine the facilities being extended to them. The Members went around various wards and facilities of the hospital and interacted with the patients, their attendants as well as doctors and the staff. The GB decided that it would more frequently interact with patients and doctors.

While reviewing the functioning of the PET CT facility, the GB decided that keeping in view the increasing number of patients coming to the hospital to avail this facility which is available only at SMVDNSH, Kakryal in the entire Jammu region, instead of three days in a week, PET CT facility will be made available four days in a week. Other matters that came up for review of the GB include the functioning of Jammu OPD of the SMVDNSH and commencing of Organ Transplant (Renal) Programme at the SMVDNSH, Kakryal.



### **SMVDCoN students to pursue internship at NH and other leading health institutions**

The 35th Governing Body meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, was held at Katra on 27 August.

It was informed that the first batch of students of the college will pursue their internship training at the Narayana Health Group of Hospitals at Bangalore, Delhi and Jaipur and other places in the country. The internship of the first batch of the SMVDCoN, which is passing out next year, will commence from January 2020.



35<sup>th</sup> GB meeting of SMVDCoN.

The GB meeting chaired by Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd), Member Shrine Board; was attended by Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr. V. Verma, Dean, SMVDU; Dr. (Brig) M. M. Harjai, Administrator, SMVDCoN; Dr. J. P. Singh, Senior Consultant, Neuro Surgery, SMVDNSH; and Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal of the College, reviewed progress on pre-placement activities of the college and discussed the broad contours for starting M. Sc. Nursing Programme in the college by 2020.

### **Workshops to be organised to enhance employability of Gurukul students**

The 27th meeting of the Governing Council for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, was held at SGC, Katra on 29 August in which a number of important decisions were taken for the future growth of this institution as a centre of excellence.

The GC comprehensively reviewed the functioning of the Counselling Cell of the Gurukul which has been set up to guide the students about various career options and available opportunities. The GC emphasized on enhancing employability of the students of the Gurukul and asked for imparting practical

training and required skills to the students in Vedic Mantras, Karam Kand, Jyotish, Vastu Shastra and other religious ceremonies and rituals, so that they find adequate job opportunities after passing out from the institution.



27<sup>th</sup> GC meeting of SMVD Gurukul.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board, chaired the meeting, which was attended by Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; Prof. Yugal Kishore Mishra; Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri; Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer; Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. CEO of the Shrine Board and Administrator of Gurukul; Sh. Gopal Dass Sharma, Head Pujari, Bhawan; and Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal of the Gurukul.

The meeting also took stock of functioning of Smart Classes which have been introduced in the Gurukul and underscored the need for continuously enriching the content of teaching for maximising its benefits to students.

### **I-Day celebrations at Katra**

The 73rd Independence Day was celebrated with traditional fervour and patriotism at Katra. The main function was held at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, where Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO of the Shrine Board, hoisted the tricolour and took salute at an impressive march-past by the contingents drawn from CRPF, NCC, sports persons undergoing coaching at the Sports Complex and the students of various educational institutions.

The students presented a colourful cultural programme on this occasion based on the theme of patriotism and national integration. Sh. Simrandeep Singh gave prizes to the students adjudged best in the march-past and cultural programme. Sh. Mayank, Sanitation Supervisor, SMVDSB was also awarded on the



occasion for his outstanding work in Mule Dung Composting Project of the Board.



CEO Shrine Board inspecting I-Day parade at Katra.

Sh. Vimal Indu, President, Municipal Committee, Katra; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO, SMVDSB; Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer; Dr. Arvind Karwani, Sh. Amit Vermani and Dr. Jagdish Mehra, Dy. CEOs, SMVDSB; Dr. (Brig) M. M. Harjai, Chief Administrative Officer, SMVDNSH; Sh. Jitendra Kumar Gupta, Commandant, 6th Bn. CRPF; Sh. Ashok Kumar, SDM, Katra; Sh. Naresh Singh, Additional SP, Katra; and Sh. Attar Chand, CEO KDA were present on the occasion. Besides, Members of Municipal Committee, Katra, senior officers from civil and police administration, prominent citizens, heads of various educational institutions, media persons, staff of the Shrine Board and a large number of locals and pilgrims were also present.

Earlier, Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO, SMVDSB, also hoisted the tricolour at a function held at the Central Office of the Shrine Board at Katra. Sweets and gifts were distributed to the children on this occasion.

### SMVDSB organises 32 training programmes for staff

32 training programmes were conducted by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for its staff working in various units during July-September 2019. These trainings were organised in the fields of Health and Hygiene, Enhancing of Soft Skills, Basic Life Support, First Aid & Emergency Response and Advanced Computer Skills etc.

A 'Happiness Programme' through the Art of Living organisation was also arranged for senior management of the Board.



Training programme conducted by Art of Living at SGC, Katra.

The Board has put in place a mechanism under which bulk of trainings are imparted by the internal resource persons. In furtherance of this objective, the Board deputed 11 of its officials for Training of Trainers programme at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. It is pertinent to mention that it is mandatory for every employee of Shrine Board to attend at least one training programme in a year and the outcomes of same are reflected in APR of employee.

### 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign Shrine Board carries out several activities

As part of the cleanliness campaign 'Swachhata Hi Seva', Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board organised several activities in collaboration with the Indian Oil Corporation. These included a special sanitation drive covering the Bhawan area, Sanjichhat, Bhairon Complex, Adhkuwari, Tarakote Marg, Banganga and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Kakryal. The objective of this Shramdaan Divas activity was limiting the use of single use plastic and to collect all types of plastic waste, increasing awareness among the pilgrims, local population and all other towards environment.



Cleaning of Banganga.

A massive campaign was also launched to clean Banganga rivulet in which a large number of staff of the Shrine Board and the pilgrims took part. Other activities organized included painting competitions, group



discussions, plastic collection and awareness drives, talks on plastic management, etc.

A Cyclothon from Domel to Katra was also organized in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation and J&K Bank in which a number of professional cyclists and cycle enthusiasts took part. The rally was flagged off by Dr. Jagdish Mehra, Dy. Chief Executive Officer.

### **Union Secretary visits Shrine Board's Sports Complex**

Ms. Upma Chawdhry, Union Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, on 3 September visited Shrine Board's Sports Complex at Katra.

Accompanied by Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; she took stock of the state-of-the-art facilities put in place by the Shrine Board for promotion of sports in the area. She also interacted with players undergoing specialized training at Sports Complex.



**Ms. Upma Chawdhry, Union Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports interacting with sports persons at Shrine Board's Sports Complex at Katra.**

Sh. Simrandeep Singh briefed the Union Secretary that Athletics, Archery, Basketball and Shooting are the core games in which specialised coaching and training is being provided to the players. He added that as a consequence of these initiatives, the sports persons groomed at the Sports Complex are winning laurels at the national and international level competitions. Ms. Chawdhry appreciated the infrastructure and impressed upon the sports persons to avail maximum benefit from these facilities. Among those present on the occasion were Sh. Ashok Kumar,

Director Sports, SMVDSB; Coaches and campers of the Sports Complex. Earlier, Ms. Chawdhry paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

### **6 shooters of Sports Complex qualify for National Shooting Championship**

Six shooters trained at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex at Katra have qualified for the National Rifle Shooting Championship to be held later this year. They include Subashish, Sagar Gupta, Shruti Sharma and Renu Sharma in the junior category and Arjun Sharma and Pragya Verma in the youth category. Based on their excellent performance in the G. V. Mavalankar Shooting Championship at Ahmedabad, in which 600 shooters from across the country participated, they have qualified for nationals.

### **Kedarnath team visits SMVDSB for studying sanitation aspects**



**Rudraprayag officers team interacting with CEO Shrine Board.**

An 8-member team of officers from Rudraprayag District Administration associated with the facilitation of pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine of Shri Kedarnath Ji, met Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, at Katra on 2 September.

The team led by Dr. S. K. Jha, Chief Medical Officer, Rudraprayag was on a 5-day study tour to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board to understand different aspects of management of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji pilgrimage with particular focus on sanitation, equine management, helicopter services, Battery Operated Vehicles and medical facilities.

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