



# Trikuta

## A Quarterly Newsletter

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### 66<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SMVDSB

#### Lt. Governor emphasises for massive sanitation measures for preventing spread of coronavirus

The 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was held at the Raj Bhavan at Jammu on 20 March under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu, Chairman of the Shrine Board.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu chairing 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of SMVDSB at Raj Bhavan, Jammu.

H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar (who attended the meeting through video conferencing), Dr. Ashok Bhan, Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma and Sh. K. K. Sharma, all Board Members; Sh. Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt. Governor; Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education; Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; and Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional Chief Executive Officer participated in the deliberations.

The Lt. Governor, while welcoming the Members of the Board, complimented them for their valuable contributions in creating and continually upgrading facilities for convenience of the pilgrims.

At the outset, the meeting reviewed the timely and necessary precautionary measures taken by the Board in view of the outbreak of coronavirus for ensuring the safety of the visiting pilgrims, staff and the public in general. The meeting lauded these pro-active initiatives viz. installation of bilingual hoardings on the track from Katra to Bhawan, distributing pamphlets among the pilgrims, making announcements in regard to the advisories on the Multipurpose Audio System in the Shrine area for the information of the pilgrims, making available Self Declaration Forms at Yatra Registration Counters, Enquiry and Registration Counter, Helipad Terminals and all accommodation complexes of the Board, deploying Thermal Image Scanners at Yatra entry points of Banganga, Tarakote and Katra Helipad for screening of pilgrims, regularly using and spraying disinfectants all along the track, accommodations, bhojanalayas, toilet blocks, queues, railings, door handles as well as providing face masks, hand sanitizers and disinfectants to all units of the Board.

As the Yatra has been suspended w.e.f. 18 March, 2020, the Lt. Governor emphasized that pooja, aarti and other rituals at the Shrine should be performed as usual. He directed for continuing the massive sanitation drive at Katra as well as on the track and in the entire Shrine area.

The meeting took stock of the various projects taken up and accomplished by the Board for the benefit of the society at large, such as establishment of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Gurukul, Superspeciality Hospital and the Nursing College, besides taking various social support initiatives and gave in-principle approval to the proposal for creation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Charitable Society to manage non-pilgrimage activities of the Board.

The Board also reviewed the functioning of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal and was apprised that the hospital, which is already empanelled under CGHS and ECHS, is also being empanelled under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, shortly.

The Board also reviewed the progress of major projects of the Shrine Board, especially related to the protection and treatment of hill slopes. Two proposals in this regard were approved by the Board at an estimated cost of about Rs. 9 crore.

The Board while taking review of Prasad Sewa operationalised at Sanjichhat in February, emphasized that the efforts need to be further intensified on continuing basis for extending all possible facilities for the pilgrims.

Earlier, Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO, SMVDSB gave a detailed presentation on the latest status of varied activities of the Shrine Board and the action taken in regard to the implementation of various decisions of the previous meetings of the Board.

### **Religious Activities**

#### **Natural Cave opened for pilgrims**



Pilgrims having darshan via natural Cave.

The natural Cave of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji was opened on 15 January for darshan for the devotees as per usual practice in vogue and 1,07,243 pilgrims had darshan via natural Cave upto 6 March. Every year the natural Cave is opened for pilgrims after Makar Sankranti. Normally pilgrims are allowed from the natural Cave when the daily yatra comes below the 10,000 mark.

### **Shrine Board starts Prasad Sewa for pilgrims at Sanjichhat**

For facilitation of pilgrims, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board started a free *Prasad Sewa* from 21 February at Sanjichhat located on the traditional track leading to the Holy Cave Shrine. This facility will be available to the pilgrims round the clock throughout the year.



Pilgrims having prasad at Prasad Sewa launched by Shrine Board at Sanjichhat.

The *Prasad Sewa* was inaugurated by Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; amidst chanting of Vedic mantras. A pooja was held at the site before the commencement of the *Prasad Sewa*. The pilgrims present on the occasion lauded the Shrine Board for starting this facility.

The pilgrims will be served *halwa*, *black channa* and tea in a well-established infrastructure dedicated for *Prasad Sewa*. This *Prasad Sewa* was started by the Shrine Board in its continuous endeavours for providing free *Prasad* facility for catering maximum number of pilgrims. The Shrine Board has been already running a free

community kitchen at Tarakote since May 2019 on the picturesque Tarakote Marg between Katra and Adhkuwari. The free community kitchen at Tarakote also works round the clock and the pilgrims are served meals.

### **Over 20 lakh yatris avail pre-paid system**

The hi-tech computerised pre-paid management system, integrated with CCTV Cameras and video conferencing facilities, for hiring ponies, pithoos and palkis, which was launched by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for the facilitation of pilgrims, completed one year of its successful operation on 25 February. More than 20 lakh pilgrims availed the facility of this 24x7 hi-tech system during this period.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, reviewed the functioning of the pre-paid system at a meeting of the concerned officers of the Shrine Board. He stressed for bringing about further improvements in the system, by technological interventions, wherever possible, for further facilitation of the pilgrims, who avail the services of ponies, pithoos and palkis during the pilgrimage.

The system has integrated 10 Pre-paid Counters from Katra to Bhairon, located at an average distance of 1.75 km from each other at Katra, Banganga, Charan-Paduka, Adhkuwari-I, Adhkuwari-II, Sanjichhat, Satya, Parvati Bhawan at Bhawan, Pony Stand Bhawan and Bhairon, from where the pilgrims get pony, pithoo and palki services at pre-determined rates. The entire monitoring of this pre-paid system is done from the monitoring station located at Katra.

The pre-paid counters also serve as Grievance Registration Centres for the pilgrims which is conveyed to the Shrine Board Administration at Katra in escalation format. The Counters also provide video conferencing facilities to the Shrine Board Office in order to monitor the activities and interact with employees at different yatra stations.



## Yatra to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine suspended from 18 March

In view of the advisories issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the J&K Government considering the spread of coronavirus, Yatra to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji has been suspended w.e.f. 18 March 2020. This has been done to ensure the safety of the pilgrims and the people at large. However, Pooja, Aarti and other rituals are being held at the Holy Cave Shrine as usual.

## Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organised 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 25 March on the auspicious occasion of beginning of Navratras. The Maha Yagya, which is performed at the Holy Cave Shrine during Navratras for peace and prosperity, concluded with *Purna Ahuti* on Ramanavami on 2 April.



Shat Chandi Maha Yagya concluded with *Purna Ahuti* at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on Ramanavami.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; and Sh. Naresh Kumar, SDM Bhawan; were present on the occasion. The Shat Chandi Maha Yagya was also telecast from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. daily during Navratras. The live darshans of Maa Vaishno Devi's Pindi Roop every day during morning and evening Aarti which commenced during the Navratras, have been continued further in view of the demand of the devotees.



A view of the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji during Navratras.

Like in the past, the Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Atka and the area surrounding were decorated with flowers on the occasion of Navratras.

## Shrine Board organises Nav Chandi Yagya

Nav Chandi Yagya and Havan was organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on the auspicious occasion of Yogini Ekadashi, Sarvatha Siddhi Yog and Ashwini Nakshatra on 16 June which concluded with *Purna Ahuti*. The Yagya was organized for peace, prosperity and health of humanity.



Nav Chandi Yagya performed at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

## Durga Saptshati Paath organised at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine during Gupt Navratras

Durga Saptshati Paath, Pooja and Havan organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji which commenced on the auspicious occasion of beginning of Gupt Navratras for peace, prosperity and health of humanity, concluded with *Purna Ahuti* on Navami on 29 June. Besides Durga Saptshati

Paath, Pooja and Havan, 1.25 lakh *Navarna Mantra Jaap* was also performed during the Gupt Navratras.

### **Institutional Activities**

#### **Lt. Governor attends Lamp Lighting Ceremony and Annual Day function of SMVDCoN Kakryal**

#### **Congratulates student nurses for pursuing noble profession of nursing**

The Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Matrika Auditorium of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, on 4 February.

The Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu, Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, was the Chief Guest.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu attends Lamp Lighting ceremony of SMVD College of Nursing.

Dr. Ashok Bhan and Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Members of the Shrine Board; Prof. (Dr.) Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University; Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Ms. Indu Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi; Ms. Rashmi Wazir, SSP Reasi; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO of the Board and Sh. Jitendra Kumar Gupta, Commandant, CRPF 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. were present on the occasion.

Speaking during the function, the Lt. Governor said that the Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony was an important

occasion for every nursing student as it marked the commitment of a nurse to adhere to the highest professional values and standards. He congratulated the student nurses for embarking on a noble profession like nursing which is a vital component of any healthcare system and lauded their parents for choosing the profession of nursing for their wards.

The Lt. Governor underlined the importance of capacity building of the Nursing College through collaborations with the Nursing Institutions of repute for providing top quality nursing education to the students at the SMVDCoN. He called for exploring the opportunities of job placements for the passing-out students of the Nursing College for their better career prospects. He also congratulated the management, faculty and staff of College of Nursing on the occasion.

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

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Member of the Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of the Nursing College, in his welcome address, highlighted the achievements of the College in academics and extra-curricular activities during the past one year.

#### **Lt. Governor inaugurates SMVDCoN Hostel Blocks**

The Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 4 February inaugurated two Under-Graduate Hostel Blocks of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing at Kakryal. Constructed by the Shrine Board at a cost of Rs. 18.46 crore, these buildings will cater to the residential requirements of the students of the Nursing College.

The Lt. Governor had a round of the hostel buildings and inspected the facilities being provided to the students. He directed the CEO of the Shrine Board to ensure adequate provision for harnessing rain water

and solar energy in the newly constructed Hostel buildings. He also asked the CEO for taking up plantation at the available space around the Hostel buildings to make the campus green besides ensuring that all the buildings of the Board are environment-friendly.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu inaugurating Hostel Blocks of SMVD College of Nursing.

Later, the Lt. Governor visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital and inspected the functioning of various specialities and hi-end equipments including OPDs, Radiology, MRI and CT Scan, Pharma and Emergency facilities available in the Hospital.

The Lt. Governor was accompanied by Dr. Ashok Bhan and Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Members of the Shrine Board; Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Ms. Indu Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi; Ms. Rashmi Wazir, SSP Reasi; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO, SMVDSB; Dr. Sunil Sharma, Deputy CEO, SMVDSB and Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal of the Nursing College.

### **Gurukul Governing Council meets**

The 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Council for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, was held at Jammu on 17 January in which a number of important decisions were taken for the future growth of this institution.

The GC noted the outstanding achievements of students of the Gurukul in academics and co-curricular activities in the national level competitions and in this context congratulated 7 students of the institution who

won medals in their respective events at the Akhil Bhartiya Shastriya Spardha held at Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Ekalavya Campus, Agartala, Tripura. The team comprising Sanjeev Kumar and Prikshit Sharma of Shastri Part-III won gold medal in quiz competition, Gotam Sharma of 12<sup>th</sup> class won silver medal in Kavyakanthpath, Nand Lal of Shastri Part-I won silver medal in Shlokantyakshri, Udit Narayan Jasyal of 12<sup>th</sup> class won bronze medal in Bhagwad Geeta Kanthpath, Anish Sharma of 12<sup>th</sup> class won Vishisht Shreni in Ashtadhyayi Kanthpath while Shubham Sharma of Shastri Part-I secured Pratham Shreni in Sahitya Shalaka. The GC also congratulated Pranshu Sharma, a student of the Gurukul who stood 1<sup>st</sup> in the class 8<sup>th</sup> annual examination conducted by the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, in May-June 2019 for which he was awarded Vakratund Gold Medal by the varsity, with which the Gurukul is affiliated.



Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board chairing Gurukul Governing Council meeting.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board and Chairman of Governing Council for the Gurukul, chaired the meeting, which was attended by Sh. Ramesh Kumar, 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, the then Dy. CEO of the Shrine Board and Administrator of Gurukul; Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEO of the Board; Sh. Gopal Dass Sharma, Head Pujari, Bhawan; and Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal of the Gurukul.



The Governing Council also took stock of the progress in regard to the initiatives being taken by the Counselling Cell of the Gurukul for enhancing employability of the students and stressed 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 avail adequate job opportunities after passing out from the institution.

### **SMVD Gurukul organising online classes, skill upgradation practical programmes for students**

Since the suspension of class work and closure of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra in March 2020 in view of the Covid-19, online classes have been started by the Gurukul to continuously facilitate teaching-learning process for the students. These online classes are being organised for the students through different modes like Google classroom, Google Meet, WhatsApp video call, telephonic communication.

The Gurukul has also started online practical trainings on required skills in Vedic Mantras, Karam Kand, Jyotish, Vastu Shastra, Yagya, other religious ceremonies and rituals besides Yoga and Sangeet so that the Gurukul students can avail adequate job opportunities after passing-out from the institution. For this purpose, a comprehensive schedule for online practical classes has been prepared.



SMVD Gurukul organised Lakshmi Narayan Yagya.

As a part of this initiative, the Gurukul organised Shri Lakshmi Narayan Yagya in which all the 179 students of this institution from class 6<sup>th</sup> to Shastri Part-III and the faculty participated through online mode. The objective of organising the Yagya was to impart practical training to the students and for peace, prosperity and health of humanity. The Gurukul also organised a webinar on 20 June on varied aspects of solar eclipse which occurred on 21 June 2020 in which students as well as the faculty of the institution participated.

### **SMVD College of Nursing students spread awareness on COVID-19**

In view of the COVID-19, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, has been closed since March 2020. However, the student nurses of this institution have been utilising this period on spreading awareness regarding COVID-19 among their families, neighbourhood and the people of their respective localities.



SMVDCoN students spreading awareness regarding COVID-19.

The SMVDCoN students belonging to various areas of J&K have been spreading awareness on different preventive measures vis-à-vis COVID-19 in their villages and localities. These include various measures and precautions to be adopted for checking the spread of COVID-19 like importance of 'stay home stay safe', frequently washing hands with soap and running water, using masks and sanitizers, maintaining adequate social distancing as well as various do's and don'ts and the guidelines and the advisories issued from time to time. They have also briefed the people of their areas about the



use of Aarogya Setu App and helped them in its downloading and using it in their mobile phones.

For the purpose, the Nursing College students adopted different strategies and techniques which, inter alia, include visual aids like posters, flash cards, charts and other means in the awareness camps and interactions organised by them in several localities of districts of Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda and Kishtwar as well as at Manali in Himachal Pradesh.

### **CEO Shrine Board reviews functioning of SMVD College of Nursing and Gurukul**

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board took a holistic review of the functioning of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN) and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul at a meeting held at Katra on 15 June.

Among those who participated in the meeting included Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer; Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEO of the Shrine Board and Administrator of SMVDCoN and Gurukul; Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal of SMVDCoN and Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal of the Gurukul.

The CEO took stock of the online classes being organised for the students of both these institutions since the lockdown and also discussed modalities for regularly organising online internal tests for evaluating the level of preparation of the students. He asked the Principals of the College of Nursing and the Gurukul to organise weekly telephonic sessions with the students at a fixed time by making groups of students for better concept clearance. He asked the Principal of the Gurukul that, besides the online mode, if need be, the study material should be despatched to the students at their residences also.

The Principal SMVDCoN was advised to tie-up with various leading healthcare institutions in the country for arranging

placements for the students of the Nursing College as the first batch of the B. Sc. Nursing students of SMVDCoN is passing out this year. The CEO also asked the Principal of Gurukul to contact various organisations for exploring possibilities of the job placements for the passing-out students of the Gurukul and stressed 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 avail adequate job opportunities after passing-out from the institution.

### **Administrative Activities**

#### **CSIR-CIMAP signs MoU with Shrine Board for providing technical support to make agarbattis from flower waste**

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at Katra on 24 January under which the CSIR-CIMAP will provide free consultancy, technical support and guidance to the Board for making *agarbattis* from flower waste. Under the project, a small infrastructure facility will be created for making the incense sticks. The used flowers will be collected from the temples, petals segregated from stems, washed, dried, grinded and rolled to make the incense sticks.



CSIR-CIMAP signs MoU with Shrine Board.

The MoU was signed by Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board and Sh. Bhaskar Jyoti Deuri, Controller of Administration, CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow. Dr.





Alok Kalra, former Director, CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow; Sh. R. K. Srivastava, Senior Scientist and Head, Rural Development, CSIR-CIMAP; Dr. Sunil Sharma and Sh. Deepak Dubey, Dy. CEOs of the Board were present on the occasion.

A day-long “Training-cum-Workshop on *agarbatti* making from used flowers” was also organised by the Shrine Board at the Spiritual Growth Centre in collaboration with CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow in which 20 female employees of the Board participated.

### **Shrine Board CEO hoists tricolour on Republic Day**

The 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day was celebrated with traditional fervour and patriotism at Katra. Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, hoisted the tricolour and took salute at an impressive march-past by the 25 contingents drawn from CRPF, NCC, scouts and guides, students of various educational institutions of Katra and its surrounding areas besides the Shrine Board’s Sports Complex Coaching Centre.

The students of various educational institutions presented a captivating cultural programme on this occasion and the adjudged winners of march-past and cultural programme were given prizes.



CEO Shrine Board inspecting parade at Republic Day function at Katra.

Among those present on the occasion were Sh. Vimal Indu, President, Municipal Committee, Katra; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO of the Board; Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer, SMVDSB; Dr. Sunil Sharma and Sh. Deepak Dubey, Dy.

CEOs; Sh. Ashok Kumar, SDM, Katra; Sh. Naresh Singh, the then Additional SP, Katra; Sh. Jitendra Kumar Gupta, Commandant, CRPF 6<sup>th</sup> Bn; Sh. Rajinder Singh, OSD, SMVDSB; and Sh. Ashok Kumar, Director Sports, SMVDSB. Others who participated in the function included Members of Municipal Committee, Katra, senior civil and police officers, prominent citizens, heads of various educational institutions, media persons, officers and staff of the Shrine Board, a large number of people of the area, teachers, school children and the pilgrims.

As part of the Republic Day celebrations, Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO, SMVDSB, also hoisted the tricolour at a function held at the Central Office of the Shrine Board.

### **Shrine Board officers and staff bid farewell to outgoing Dy. CEOs**

The officers and staff of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board organised a function at the Spiritual Growth Centre at Katra on 1 February to bid farewell to Dr. Arvind Karwani and Sh. Amit Vermani, the outgoing Dy. Chief Executive Officers of the Board and to welcome Dr. Sunil Sharma, the new Dy. Chief Executive Officer. Besides, officers and staff of the Board bade an affectionate farewell to the four employees of the Shrine Board viz. Sh. Birbal, Sh. Rajesh Kumar Narang, Sh. Chanchal Singh and Sh. Som Raj on their superannuation on retirement from the Board.



CEO Shrine Board presenting mementos to outgoing Dy. CEOs.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of



the Shrine Board, lauded the dedication and commitment with which Dr. Karwani and Sh. Vermani as well as the four retiring officials worked in the Board. He presented mementos to them and wished the outgoing Dy. CEOs bright careers ahead and the four retiring officials a healthy and prosperous post-retirement life. He also welcomed Dr. Sunil Sharma, the new Dy. CEO of the Board, on this occasion.

Among those present on the occasion were Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO of the Board; Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer; Dr. Jagdish Mehra and Sh. Deepak Dubey, Dy. CEOs; Sh. Naresh Kumar, SDM Bhawan; other officers and a large number of employees of the Board.

### **Shrine Board employees contribute one day's salary towards J&K Relief Fund**

To contribute towards the efforts being undertaken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the employees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board contributed one day's salary for the J&K Relief Fund.



Shrine Board officials distributing ration kits among slum dwellers and other stranded workers at Katra.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board said that the donated amount was raised by the Shrine Board employees through contribution of their one day's salary while the gazetted officers of the Board contributed their two days' salary towards the Relief Fund.

On the directions of the Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu, Chairman of the Shrine Board, the Board on 29 March distributed ration kits among the

slum dwellers and other stranded workers at Katra.

### **Shrine Board to plant 1.10 lakh saplings this year**

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, reviewed the various activities undertaken under the Annual Greening Plan of the Board at a meeting held at Katra on 17 June.

The CEO emphasised on planting of indigenous varieties of plants which are hardy, provide shade and are compatible with the local climatic conditions alongside taking up plantation of fruit bearing and other species. He also asked for planting ornamental plants, herbs, aromatic plants, flowering and avenue trees on the Tarakote Marg and in the Bhawan area, to begin with, to further enhance ambience of the track while covering the available spaces along the remaining tracks in a phased manner for which a comprehensive plan should be formulated.



A view of hi-tech nursery of Shrine Board at Panthal.

The Board is bringing another 100 hectares area under green cover by planting 1.10 lakh saplings including forest, horticultural, medicinal, soil binders and seasonal flowering seedlings during the period. In addition, 55 km fire lines have been created and 10 water harvesting structures being constructed. Besides, 1.20 lakh plants are being produced this year from the hi-tech nursery established by the Shrine Board at Kunia near Panthal to in-house meet the planting stock requirements of the Board.

The meeting, which was attended by Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; Sh. Vinay

Khajuria, ACF and other concerned officers of the Shrine Board, also discussed, inter alia, the modalities for Geo-mapping of the entire Shrine area to monitor all greening activities by adopting latest technologies besides conducting of flora and fauna census in the Shrine area.

### **Sports Activities**

#### **Governing Council meeting of Sports Complex**

The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of Governing Council of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's Sports Complex was held at the Spiritual Growth Centre at Katra on 19 January.



Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board chairing Sports Complex Governing Council meeting.

The GC expressed great satisfaction at the appreciable performance of the sports persons trained and nurtured at the Sports Complex in various national and international level competitions and decided to organise a mega sports festival at the Sports Complex to enable the student and non-student youth of the area to avail state-of-the-art facilities created by the Shrine Board. The events to be planned for the festival include competitions in basketball, football, tug of war, kabaddi and volleyball. The meeting also decided that besides athletics, archery, shooting and basketball, judo will be another area of focus to produce outstanding players in this sport also.

The Calendar of Activities of the Sports Complex for 2020-21 was also approved in the meeting. The meeting also suggested for conducting performance audit of the sports persons being trained at the Sports Complex to continuously improve their performance in various sports and games.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Sports Complex, chaired the meeting. Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; Sh. Sanjeeva Singh, former International Archer (Arjuna/Dronacharya Awardee); Ms. Krupali Singh, National Gymnastics Coach (Arjuna Awardee); Sh. Kuldeep Handoo, eminent Wushu player and National Coach; besides Sh. Ashok Kumar, Director Sports, SMVDSB, all of whom are members of the Governing Council, participated in the deliberations. Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer; Dr. Arvind Karwani and Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEOs were also present. Sh. Shiv Kumar Sharma was the Special Invitee.

#### **Shrine Board organises 2-day sports festival for women**

As part of the celebration of International Women's Day, a 2-day sports festival for women was organised by the Shrine Board at its Sports Complex at Katra during 7-8 March in which nearly 140 participants comprising students from various educational institutions, female staff of the Shrine Board and students of the SMVD College of Nursing took part in athletics, kho kho, tug of war, table tennis and badminton competitions during the event.



CEO Shrine Board with prize winners of women sports festival.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council of Sports Complex, inaugurated the sports festival in the presence of Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine



Board. The CEO felicitated the prize winners of the event on the concluding day.

Among those present on the occasion were Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEO and Sh. Ashok Kumar, Director Sports, SMVDSB.

### 65th National SGFI Archery Championship

Seven archers of Shrine Board's Sports Complex who were part of J&K team, brought laurels by winning 3 gold medals and one bronze medal at the 65<sup>th</sup> National School Games Federation of India Archery Championship held at Ranchi during 18-21 January 2020, for U-19 boys and girls. They included Sunaina Devi, Eklavya Ahlawat, Ankush Thapa, Pankaj, Divyansh, Vishal and Sangharsh. Four archers of the Sports Complex also participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Khelo India Youth Games 2020 at Guwahati. They were Sunaina Devi, Prawin Bashingam, Nikesa Sakhare and Dishant Singh.

### 2nd Division I-League Football match



Players being introduced with CEO Shrine Board.

The major events held at the Sports Complex included 2nd Division I-League Football Tournament in which Punjab FC defeated Lone Star Kashmir FC by a solitary goal. The event was organised by Lone Star Kashmir FC & Jammu and Kashmir Football Association in collaboration with Shrine Board's Sports Complex, under the aegis of Football Federation of India, at Katra on 8 February.

### Shrine Board organises Yoga at Sports Complex

As part of celebration of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board organised yoga *asanas* and *pranayam* at its Sports Complex at Katra as well as all units on the track by maintaining adequate social distancing.



Yoga asanas and pranayam organized at Sports Complex on International Yoga Day.

Employees of the Shrine Board and sports persons of the Sports Complex performed a series of *asanas* and *pranayam* under the supervision of yoga experts.

The yoga sessions were also organised at the Bhawan, Bhairon and Sanjichhat as part of the celebration of International Yoga Day.

In view of the situation obtaining due to Covid-19, the employees of the Board and their families performed yoga at their homes.



Shrine Board staff performing Yoga at Bhairon.

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