



# Trikuta

## A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 3 - Issue 4

October - December 2020

### Patron

Sh. Manoj Sinha  
Chairman, SMVDSB

### Editor-in-Chief

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, IAS  
CEO, SMVDSB

### Executive Editor

Dr. Sunil Sharma, KAS  
Dy. CEO, SMVDSB

[editor@maavaishnodevi.net](mailto:editor@maavaishnodevi.net)

## Lt Governor releases Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gold and Silver coins

The Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha on 9 November released Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gold and Silver coins ahead of Diwali for millions of devotees worldwide. As many seekers are not able to travel to the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi due to Corona Pandemic, the Shrine Board decided to make the coins available in Jammu and Delhi as well.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said he is fortunate to have got the opportunity to release Maa Vaishno Devi coins. He said Maa Goddess's prayer from the deepest core of heart brings bliss, peace and prosperity. He stressed that it is important for the people to choose the path of peace in the interest of humanity.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha releasing Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gold and Silver coins at Raj Bhavan, Jammu.



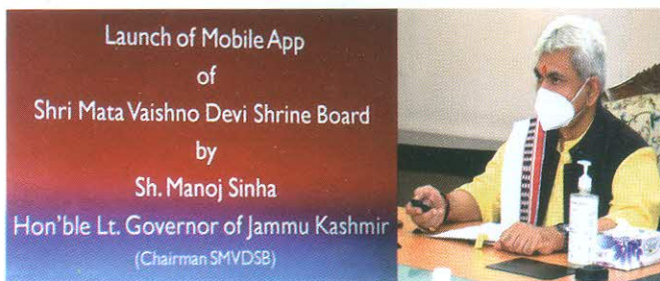
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has developed 2g, 5g and 10g Gold and 5g and 10g Silver coins of guaranteed purity carrying an impression of the Holy Pindis. The rates of the coins depend on the denomination chosen and the prevailing gold/silver rates. These coins were made available at Souvenir Shops at Bhawan, Katra, Jammu Airport, Kalika Dham Jammu and JK House, 5 Prithviraj Road, New Delhi.

It is pertinent to mention that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has recently launched many initiatives like online darshan, home delivery of Pooja Prasad and Mobile App to facilitate the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

Sh. Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor and Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board were present on the occasion.

### **Lt Governor launches 'Mata Vaishno Devi Mobile App'**

The Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha, who is the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, launched a Mobile App for the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji at the Raj Bhavan, Srinagar on 15 October.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha launching Mata Vaishno Devi Mobile App..

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said that the Mobile App will be of immense help to the devotees worldwide to have the live darshan of Maa

Vaishno Devi besides availing various other facilities made available by the Shrine Board through this medium.

Referring to the recently launched home delivery of Pooja Prasad by the Board, he said that it has been widely appreciated by the devotees. He also stressed that during the current situation due to COVID-19, the adoption of online services need to be promoted in a big way to maintain the social distancing and other preventive measures to control the spread of pandemic.

This new initiative has been taken by the Shrine Board with a view to maximising use of available technologies and digitization for the larger facilitation of the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. In the first instance, the Mobile App has been launched on Google Play Store only which will later also be available on IOS platform.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO Shrine Board briefing the Lieutenant Governor said that this App will provide an easy and convenient platform to the devotees to avail different facilities offered by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. Initially, five links have been provided in the App viz., Today's Darshan, Live Aarti, Yatra Registration Parchi, Pooja Prasad (Home Delivery) and Donations. In Today's Darshan Link, the daily Morning and Evening Darshan of the Holy Pindis will be made available to the devotees after Morning Aarti and Evening Aarti. The Live webcast of the Atka Aarti performed at the Holy Cave will also be available to the devotees at the fixed timings daily.

Besides, the option of online yatra registration will also be available to the devotees, who wish to undertake the pilgrimage. The online yatra registration is available for the same day as well as advance booking upto 60 days. The facility of Pooja for the pilgrims, in-absentia, has been introduced and the same will also be available on this



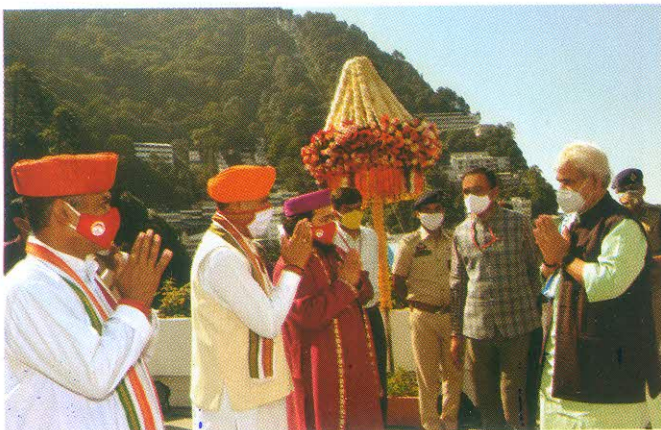
App. Upon registration, the pilgrims have the option of getting the Prasad, after performance of Pooja, in-absentia, delivered at their homes. Three denominations of Pooja Prasad viz. Rs. 500/-, Rs. 1100/- and Rs. 2100/- have been made available to the pilgrims. Besides, the option of online donations has also been made available in the App.

The facility of booking of various services like Battery Operated Vehicles, Helicopter Services, Accommodations, Online Hawan, etc. will also be made available on this App, shortly.

The Lieutenant Governor directed CEO Shrine Board to ensure best possible arrangements for the visiting pilgrims. He further directed the use of relevant technological interventions to maximise the facilitation for yatris.

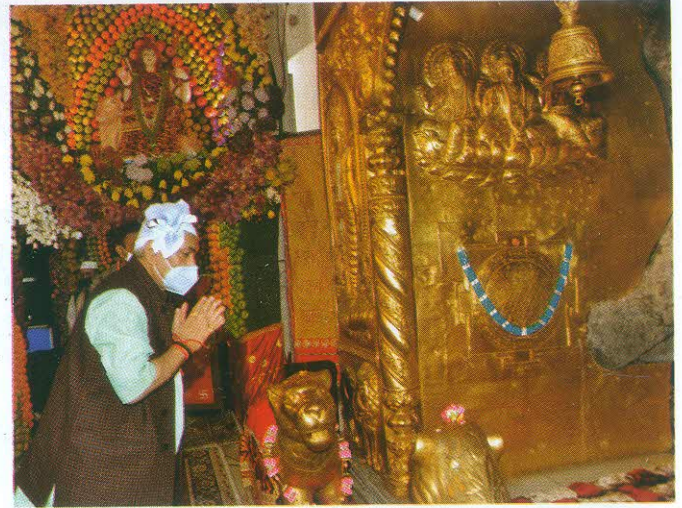
### **Lt Governor pays obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine**

The Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha, who is the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 23 October visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum on the auspicious occasion of Durga Ashtami. He prayed for peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Sh. Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor; and Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha paying obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the facilities put in place by the Shrine Board for facilitation of the pilgrims and took stock of the ongoing development works in the Shrine area. He directed the CEO Shrine Board for completion of all the ongoing infrastructure development projects within envisaged timelines to further augment the facilities in sync with the emerging requirements of the pilgrimage.

The Lieutenant Governor was briefed by the CEO Shrine Board about the status of ongoing works besides the arrangements being put in place to augment the facilities for the pilgrims.

### **Shrine Board made elaborate arrangements for pilgrims during Navratras**

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board had made elaborate arrangements for the pilgrims who paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji during the Navratras which commenced from 17 October and concluded on 24 October.



As per practice in vogue, the Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Atka and the area surrounding it were decorated with exquisite flowers besides the illumination of Bhawan area with attractive and colourful lights was also done. Other arrangements included round the clock water and power supply all along the tracks leading to the Shrine and in the Bhawan area, sanitation and sanitisation, availability of special “fast related” food at the Board’s Bhojanalayas and other facilities.



Floral decoration at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine during Navratras.

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya was also organised at the Holy Shrine during the Navratras for peace, prosperity and health of humanity, which commenced on first Navratra and concluded with *Purna Ahuti* on the auspicious occasion of Mahanavami. Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; Sh. Naresh Kumar, SDM Bhawan; other officers and staff of the Shrine Board, besides a large number of pilgrims participated in *Purna Ahuti* and other religious ceremonies performed amidst Vedic Mantras on the occasion. The Maha Yagya was also telecast on Shraddha MHO channel from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. daily during Navratras.

As was done in the last year’s Shardiya Navratras, this year’s other special features of arrangements included bhajan and bhaint performances during Morning and

Evening Atka Aarti by the renowned artistes, who included Sh. Anup Jalota, Sh. Sonu Nigam, Sh. Lakhbir Singh Lakha, Sh. Lakhwinder Wadali, Ms. Kavita Paudwal, Sh. Vishu Bhatnagar, Sh. Pankaj Dhawan, Ms. Uma Lahari, Sh. Swami Budhiraja, Sh. Vipin Sachdeva, Sh. Vikrant Marwa, Sh. Harbans Lal Bansi, Sh. Udit Narayan and Sh. Mohit Chopra.



Purna Ahuti being performed at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on Mahanavami.

The CEO Shrine Board, who constantly reviewed and monitored the arrangements before and during the Navratras, interacted with the pilgrims and enquired about the facilities made by the Shrine Board to facilitate them. They expressed satisfaction at the arrangements and were highly appreciative of the flower decoration, illumination, sanitation and sanitisation as also the precautionary measures taken in view of COVID-19 pandemic besides making all the requisite facilities for the visiting pilgrims.



Pilgrims in Atka Aarti.



## Vishesh Pooja organised at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on Diwali

On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, the festival of lights, a *Vishesh Pooja* was organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on 14 November evening. The *Vishesh Pooja* was held for peace, prosperity, health and well-being of humanity. *Chhappan Bhog* were offered to the Goddess amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and performing other religious ceremonies.

It is pertinent to mention that in consonance with the directions of the Shrine Board, besides making continuing endeavours to provide increasingly best possible facilities to the visiting pilgrims, the focus is also on organising special Paath, Pooja, Havan, Yagya and other rituals on various auspicious occasions for enhancing religious activities at the Holy Shrine.



Vishesh Pooja organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on Diwali.

A large number of pilgrims and officials of the Shrine Board were present on the occasion.

## National Water Awards-2019 SMVD Shrine Board bags 1st prize for water conservation and management

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board bagged the First Prize of the 'National Water Awards-2019'. The Award has been given by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, in recognition of the significant strides

made by the Shrine Board to promote water conservation and proper management of water in the category of 'Best Institution/ Resident Welfare Association/ Religious Organisation for Successful Campus Usage'.

The Award ceremony was organised through virtual mode on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 from New Delhi. Sh. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony of the Award distribution ceremony, while the Awards were given by Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti and Sh. Rattan Lal Kataria, Union Minister of State for Ministry of Jal Shakti.



CEO Shrine Board receiving award through online mode.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, who received the award through online mode, thanked the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti for recognising the work done by the Shrine Board for water conservation and proper water management, adding that this award will encourage more and more to work for water management.

It is pertinent to mention that the Shrine Board besides making concerted efforts to provide the best possible facilities to the pilgrims is, inter alia, taking continuing initiatives and adopting best water management practices and techniques for water conservation. These include construction of water harvesting ponds and undertaking other works in the slopes of



Trikuta Hills, installation of Water ATMs, recycling of Sewage Treatment Plants water for reuse in flushing of toilet blocks, installation of waterless urinals and rooftop rainwater harvesting etc.

To promote rainwater harvesting, the rain shelter shed on two sections of Tarakote Marg has been designed with the provision of collecting rainwater in the hood and taking it down to the collection tank through piped network envisaging subsequent use for landscaping work and sweeping purposes.

Various provisions have also been made in the residential buildings of the SMVDIME as well as SMVDNS Hospital at Kakryal for rainwater harvesting for use in landscaping work etc, thereby saving a large quantity of water. The Board has made such provisions in its several other buildings also.

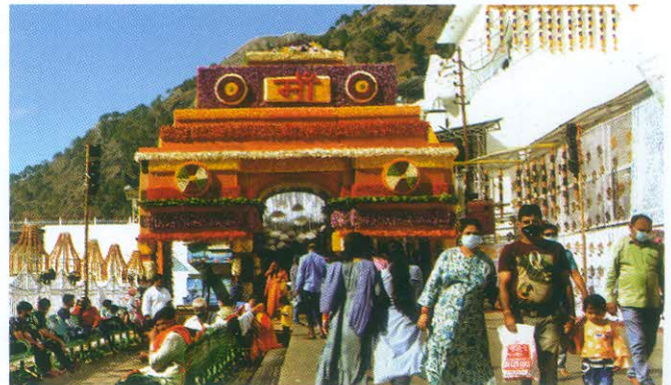
The installation of dedicated Fire Hydrants from Bhawan to Adhkuwari via Himkoti to mitigate fire incidents during summer season by lifting of treated water from Bhawan STP to reservoirs of 50,000 gallons capacity each at Hut Station, Bhawan, Saket, Himkoti and Adhkuwari, in normal course is to be utilised for floriculture, washing of track, construction works etc. The Board is also promoting the reuse of treated water from various STPs for flushing of toilet blocks, landscaping etc. In this context, an adequate water storage facility has been constructed at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex at Katra and the treated water from STP at Niharika as well as rainwater runoff from Niharika Complex is collected and used for landscaping and flushing purposes.

The Shrine Board is being awarded consecutively for the past many years in recognition of its initiatives taken in varied spheres. In 2019, Shrine Board received the 'Best Swachh Iconic Place' award under the initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission of Government of India, while in 2017 the Board received the 'Special Swachh Iconic Place' award under Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign of

the Government of India. In 2018, the Board was awarded with the Cleanest Religious Place award by the India Today Group.

### **15,000 devotees allowed to visit Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine per day**

The yatra to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji is progressing smoothly and from 1st November, the upper limit for permissible number of pilgrims to visit the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, has been enhanced to 15,000 yatris per day. Earlier, from 15 October onwards, 7,000 pilgrims were allowed to visit Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine daily, irrespective of any limit for the pilgrims from within or outside J&K UT. The registration of pilgrims continues to be made through online mode to avoid any rush of persons at the Yatra Registration Counters in view of the situation due to COVID-19.



Pilgrims proceeding to Bhawan.

It is pertinent to mention that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine located in Trikuta Hills was reopened on August 16, 2020 after a gap of nearly five months due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Initially, there was a cap of 2,000 pilgrims daily, including 100 from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The accommodation facilities of the Shrine Board at the Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Katra and Jammu have been opened for the pilgrims, following all prescribed SOPs. All other additional facilities arranged by the



Shrine Board such as Battery Operated Vehicles, Passenger Ropeway and Helicopter services are also operating smoothly by strictly following social distancing norms and other precautionary measures.

Free community kitchen facilities at Tarakote Marg and the Prasad Kendra at Sanjichhat, besides Bhojanalayas along the track and at the Bhawan, have also been operationalised for the pilgrims.



A view of snow-clad Bhawan area.

To facilitate the pilgrims, the services of Ponies, Pithoos and Palkis have also been permitted to operate on the track between Katra and Bhawan from 15 October 2020, in a regulated manner by following all the safety norms and guidelines notified by the Government in order to ensure the safety and health of the pilgrims, Shrine Board staff and the service providers.

In addition to this, the booking by the devotees for Shradha Suman Vishesh Pooja (SSVP) and Atka Aarti has also commenced.

### **100% students of first passing out batch of SMVDCoN secure placement in leading health institutions**

The 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Body of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, was held at Jammu on 12 October and took holistic review of the functioning of various aspects of the College.

At the outset, the Governing Body lauded the management and Placement Cell of SMVDCoN for securing 100% placement for the First Batch of the B. Sc. Nursing students of SMVDCoN passing-out this year. Out of a total of 58 students comprising First Batch (2016-20) of the College, 40 of them have got placement at the Narayana Health Group of Hospitals, while four more students of SMVDCoN have secured placement at the Max Hospital, Dehradun, whereas the remaining students opted for higher studies.

Expressing satisfaction at the spectacular achievements of the College in academics and co-curricular activities, the GB observed that within a short span of four years, the Nursing College is emerging as a centre of excellence in imparting quality nursing education to the students.



39<sup>th</sup> Governing Body meeting of SMVDCoN held at Jammu.

The GB also held preliminary discussions in regard to the proposal to introduce Bridge Programme at SMVDCoN for the Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives who want to seek job overseas. This three-month Bridge Programme has been formulated by the Indian Nursing Council (INC). In this context, the GB asked the Principal of the Nursing College to seek detailed information and application package from the INC for further deliberations.

Emphasising the need for organising various academic events through online mode more often for the benefit of the students and the faculty, the GB desired that a Continuing



Nursing Education Programme be organised by SMVDCoN at the earliest besides arranging webinars, quiz contests and other such activities on varied subjects on monthly basis by associating experts in the relevant fields.

The Governing Body meeting chaired by Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd.), Member Shrine Board; was attended by Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr. V. Verma, Dean, SMVDU; Dr. J. P. Singh, Senior Consultant, Neuro Surgery, SMVDNSH; Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEO of Shrine Board and Administrator of SMVDCoN; and Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal SMVDCoN.

### Chief of Defence Staff visits Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

The Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on 10 October and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum. The Chief of Defence Staff also visited Bhairon Temple through the Passenger Ropeway. He was accompanied by Army officers.



CEO Shrine Board receiving Chief of Defence Staff on Tarakote Marg.

Earlier, on arrival at the Tarakote Marg, the Chief of Defence Staff was received by Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

### Shrine Board starts Refreshment Unit at Katra Helipad

With a view to make available quality snacks, hot and cold beverages and other eatables for the pilgrims, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has set up a Catering Outlet at the Serli Helipad at Katra. Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board inaugurated this facility for the pilgrims on 22 December amidst performing of pooja and other rituals.



CEO Shrine Board inaugurating Refreshment Unit at Katra Helipad.

The pilgrims, particularly those utilising the helicopter services between Katra and Sanjichhat helipads, will be facilitated in a big way with the operationalising of this Refreshment Unit. Food, snacks and beverages will be available to the pilgrims at this Unit on 'no profit no loss' basis.

The pilgrims present on the occasion appreciated the initiative of the Shrine Board for establishing this facility at the helipad as it will largely facilitate the yatris availing the heli-services for the pilgrimage.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra-182301.  
Chief Executive Officer: 01991-232124,232075, Fax-232120  
Addl. Chief Executive Officer: 01991-232818,9906019493  
Dy. Chief Executive Officer (S): 01991-232769, 9906066669  
Email: [feedback@maavaishnodevi.net](mailto:feedback@maavaishnodevi.net) Website: [www.maavaishnodevi.org](http://www.maavaishnodevi.org)