



Trikuta

A Quarterly Newsletter

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

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Lt Governor Chairs Special Meeting of SMVDSB

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a special meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) at Raj Bhavan on 2nd January, wherein several important decisions were taken to ensure safety of the pilgrims.

Dr. Ashok Bhan; Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli; Maj. Gen (Retd) S.K. Sharma; Sh K.K. Sharma; Sh K.B Kachru and Sh Vijay Dhar- Members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, and Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB attended the meeting.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary and Sh Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor were special invitees to the meeting.

A slew of directives were issued for physical and systematic improvements wherever required after critical examination. The Board directed the CEO for making concerted efforts towards early implementation of the Master Plan for the Bhawan area in a phased manner strictly in accordance to the timelines and also reiterated for expediting construction work and early completion of Durga Bhawan for the pilgrims.



Lt Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha Chairs Special Meeting of SMVDSB

Directions were issued for carrying out required improvisations in 2nd and 3rd Phase of Master Plan to take care of all foreseen challenges. The Board discussed the modalities for suspension bridge and skywalk for effective queue management, besides identifying more halting spots to cater to large crowd at Bhawan and Katra. Discussions were also held on exploring possibilities of ropeway from Katra for the aged and infirm pilgrims.

The CEO was asked to consider resumption of the token/group number system that was discontinued six years ago. The Board also directed for early undertaking of an exercise for critically examining the safety audit of physical infrastructure and fire safety at main Bhawan, shopping complex and other important areas. The Members of the Shrine Board will monitor the implementation of directions and works to be undertaken.

Religious Activities

Vedic Shanti Path held at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

The five-day long Vedic Shanti Path at Vaishno Devi Shrine began from 14th February with chanting of Vedic hymns organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board under Covid guidelines.



Vedic Shanti Path commences at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

The Vedic Shanti Path, which is being performed at the Holy Cave Shrine, was to pray for the peace, prosperity, health, safety

and well being of mankind, concluded on 18th February, 2022. This Shanti path was headed by Dr. Vishwamurti Shastri Padam Shri Recipient, 2022.

The Shanti prayer is prayer for peace which is derived from vedas done for the peace as per the prescribed Vedic rituals. 21 Priests performed this puja for Sadgati and Moksha and grant happiness of both this Loka (Earth) and Parloka (Heavenly abodes).

SMVDSB organizes refresher course for Pujaris

With a view to sharpen the skills and to build up updated capacities in conducting religious rituals / practices and other ceremonies of Pujaris of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), a 10 days well designed refresher course for Pujaris held w.e.f. 16th February - 25th February 2022. Noteworthy that besides carrying out Puja at Holy Cave Shrine, these Pujaris are entrusted with imparting religious instructions & information to the pilgrims.

The training imparted on Ritualistic Skills by 10 experts from well renowned institutions of Kashi, Varanasi in collaboration with Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Basohli, Kathua. The refresher course covered 34 Pujaris in two batches of 17 Pujaris each with focus on the specific rituals, mantras & practices that a Pujari needs to master besides, highly specific and professional approach about their Pujan Vidhi.



Ten day training programme on Vedic Rituals for Pujaris of SMVDSB successfully concludes



The main training contents includes kalp sahit paurohitya, sanatan dharm, achar, vyavahar, jap, tap, daan, devee/ deva stuti, panchagavya, pranayam, vastr dhaaran, shikha bandhan, aasan vichaar, jal shuddhi, sthaan shuddhi, suktas, stotras, shlokas, mantras, shraaddh parichay, tarpan, panchamahaayagy*, havan, poornahuti, and prasaad grahan etc.

Mr. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board said that all the participants enlivened and enthusiastic to serve to a greater capacity with more clarity on procedures and the philosophy behind the seemingly unlimited ways in which we can render personal services to goddess and developing character, personal fulfillment and spiritual progression of visiting devotees. Dr. Sunil Sharma, Joint CEO who attended the valedictory session said that the training programme was taken up for Pujaris to give the much-needed fillip to the temple activities. He congratulated the participants and rendered formal votes of thanks to the resource persons for imparting the much needed training under the changing scenario. Participants were also given certificates in the concluding ceremony.

Developmental Activities

CEO SMVDSB reviews progress of developmental projects, asks officials to expedite ongoing works

Mr. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on 7th March inspected the ongoing developmental works and other facilities for pilgrims enroute from Katra to Bhawan and directed officials to expedite completion of ongoing works. These arrangements interalia included round the clock water and power supply, catering, healthcare facilities, sanitisation, cleanliness and regulation of yatra.



CEO SMVDSB reviews progress of developmental projects, asks officials to expedite ongoing works

Other high utility pilgrim-centric facilities also reviewed on the track included pace of construction of Durga Bhawan whose foundation stone was laid on 18th August 2021 by Hon'ble Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. The CEO was briefed about the progress of construction work by the Superintendent Engineer, CPWD at site.

The CEO while reviewing the to-date status of project impressed upon all the concerned engineers that high priority needs to be laid to ensure speedy implementation of the infrastructure facilities and timely completion of Durga Bhawan so that the pilgrims could take benefit of this facility at the earliest. CEO also took stock of the underground cabling project and exhorted the executing agency to expedite completion of the laying of HT / LT Cables at the remaining stretches on the track on Mission Mode. In addition, the CEO reviewed the resumption of the token/group number system alongwith installation of Queue Managers for hassle free regulation of yatra to address Risk Management Strategies and to determine the broad approach regarding preparedness for emergent and unforeseen situations. CEO also viewed the holding spots and directed for its development for better crowd management and to avoid congestion at the pinch points.

CEO also took stock of the functioning of hi-tech video walls installed enroute track for the dissemination of real-time information



to the pilgrims and directed concerned agency to make good the area where earthing has been done alongwith layout of tiling work.

He reiterated his directions for making maximum use of pilgrim friendly technological interventions to promote protection of the environment and ensuring sanitation and perfect cleanliness in the Shrine area. The CEO also stressed on making the track plastic and polythene free.

SMVDSB initiates rejuvenation and development of Shankaracharya Temple

With an aim to rejuvenate and improve the ecology and aesthetics of the area, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), Ramesh Kumar reviewed the status of Shankaracharya Temple located on the hillock at the eastern side of the Katra town as per the directions of Lt Governor, JKUT, who is also the Chairman of SMVDSB.

He was accompanied by Navneet Singh, Addl. CEO, Vishwajeet Singh, Dy. CEO, Executive Engineers alongwith team and other officers and officials of the Shrine Board, besides, local stakeholders.



SMVDSB initiates rejuvenation and development of Shankaracharya Temple

Noteworthy, that the renaissance of a Shankaracharya Temple in Katra for the pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji will not only create another spiritual destination but will also boost the economy of Katra Town. Besides,

beautification of the area with the environmental up-gradation of the hill and making it one of the finest environmental locations with natural topography.

Persistent demand for early development of the Shankaracharya Temple from various quarters, aspirations of the locals and as per directions of Hon'ble LG, JK-UT, CEO reviewed the extensive status of the present structure at hillock, which includes work of track leading to Shankaracharya Temple including tiling, electrification besides, the basement hall, etc.

CEO instructed the Engineering Wing of Shrine Board to retrieve the original plan/project report of the construction of a Temple, accommodation and other allied facilities from the Public Works Department (Roads & Buildings Division Katra) for the re-survey of the area for accommodating the facilities to be created alongside the track and at the Hillock (Shankaracharya Temple) besides, the structural audit of the present structure as the work on main temple was suspended in 2003 and thereafter no further physical progress has been achieved.

CEO also ascertained about the present status of availability of water and electricity supply connection and directed the Engineering Wing to examine for its restoration. Other shortcomings like approach road and improved access to Temple was also reviewed and the Engineering Wing was directed to submit a comprehensive proposal in this regard so that on no count, the rhythm and rhyme of rejuvenation work will slacken. The immediate thrust, thereafter is on vigorously speeding up the restoration work and early completion thereof so that the temple looked in its splendid pristine contour.

Pilgrim-centric infrastructure of SMVDSB gets facelift with epitome of fine dining

Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Mr. Ramesh Kumar inaugurated pilgrim-centric



infrastructural facilities at prestigious transit accommodation of Niharika complex of the Shrine Board located at heart of Katra town near bus stand, the base camp of the pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on 23rd March before ensuing Chitra Navratras, amidst Vedic hymns and rituals.

Out of total 90 rooms at Niharika Complex, 44 Deluxe rooms were re-dedicated to pilgrims after complete renovation and refurbishments in a short spell of six months whereas the remaining rooms in the Niharika Complex were earlier renovated.

Besides, facility of fine dining is also dedicated to the pilgrims named after the Goddess "Siddhidatri" the incarnation of Mother Durga, worshipped on the 9th day of Navratri, the Goddess of accomplishment. "This dining facility of Shrine Board in Niharika Complex for the pilgrims lives upto its name and is an added service for the visiting pilgrims stays in the periphery and those who visits the complex for availing various facilities rendered by the Shrine Board" said the Chief Executive Officer. In the restaurant, the buffet has a variety of North-Indian, South-Indian, Continental, specialties, snacks and desserts to address the taste of all kinds of pilgrims visiting the holy Shrine. The taste of each dish is well-balanced with authentic flavors and the serving portions are huge and reasonably priced, available from 07:30 AM to 11:00 PM on all days.



Pilgrim-centric infrastructure of SMVDSB gets facelift with epitome of fine dining

Noteworthy, that the Niharika Complex is an important halting place and a common facility centre which includes Enquiry & Reservation Section, Current Helicopter booking Counter, accommodation in shape of dormitory beds, double & four bedded rooms, food and beverage facilities at Annapoorna Bhojanalya besides now an added facility of Buffet outlet for the in-house guest of Niharika.

The pilgrims present on the occasion appreciated the initiative of the Shrine Board for establishing this facility at Niharika. Besides, added that the quality of the rooms and food items is best with very reasonable rates under one roof.

Among those present on the occasion were Navneet Singh, Addl. CEO, SMVDSB; Amit Bhasin, SP, Katra; Dr. Sunil Sharma and Dr. Jagdish Chander Mehra, Jt. CEOs; Vishavjeet Singh and Chander Parkash, Dy. CEOs; Mahesh Sharma, CAO and other officers and staff of the Shrine Board.

Administrative Activities

3rd National Water Awards-2022 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-2022'. 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 Campus Usage'.

Sh. Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony of the Award distribution who felicitated Winners of 3rd National Water Awards, while Union Minister for Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ministers of State for Jal Shakti Shri Bishweswar Tudu



were also present on the occasion. The President also launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022 during the event.



3rd National Water Awards 2022 SMVD Shrine Board bags 1st prize for water conservation and management

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, who received the award, 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.

Noteworthy, 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.

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.

A multi pronged approach has been adopted by Forest Wing of Shrine Board for proper water management and promotion of water conservation through various activities and campaigns which includes construction of water harvesting ponds, DRSM (Dry Rubble Stone Masonry) works in the slopes of Trikuta Hills and construction of vegetative check

dam. Considerable number of water harvesting ponds has been constructed in the Shrine forest area which is helping in recharging ground water and also serving as a feeding point for wildlife. In addition, vegetative check dams have been constructed by using live hedges and plant species in forest areas which is also helping in control of water and soil from erosion.

Banganga river rejuvenation also remained a focus area for Shrine Board wherein water management and environment management are taken together for implementation to restore the lost ecology of the polluted stretches of the river by construction of drainage with sewer network system with interceptor chambers to divert polluted water. The target to create a green environment around Banganga rivulet was also initiated which not only helped in reducing soil erosion but improvement in the ecology and aesthetics of the area besides environment friendly and attractive pilgrimage.

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.

73rd Republic Day celebrations at Katra; CEO, SMVDSB unfurls tricolor

The 73rd Republic Day was celebrated with traditional fervor and patriotism at Katra, the base town for pilgrimage to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on 26 January.

The main function at Katra was held at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, where Mr. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board,

unfurled the tricolor and took salute at an impressive march-past by the contingents drawn from J&K Police, CRPF, NCC, besides the students of various educational institutions.



73rd Republic Day celebrations at Katra

The CEO contended the benefits of many government schemes initiated had now reached the doorsteps of people. He also highlighted the construction of six-lane Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway by which the travel time from Delhi to Vaishno Devi will be reduced to six hours only. Besides, it threw light on development of pilgrimage tourism circuit and PARSAD scheme. Mr. Ramesh Kumar recalled contributions made by Late Sh. H.L. Maini, retired Chief Engineer who conferred with annual UT Awards- 2022 along with Rakesh Kumar, Paralympian on the eve of Republic Day as Late Sh. Maini served the general public of Jammu and Kashmir along with significantly contributing in the development of critical infrastructure at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, besides, Rakesh Kumar, Para Archer and Olympian in the promotion of Para Sports in Jammu and Kashmir and laurels he brought for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi's Sports Complex and the Union territory.

He also gave details of various major infrastructure development projects already completed by the Shrine Board, ongoing and those in the pipeline including completion of Durga Bhawan in the present year for facilitation of the pilgrims, besides, steps

taken by the Board for mitigation and crowd management by way of effective queue management and identifying more halting spots at Bhawan and Katra. Earlier, the students of various educational institutions presented a colorful scintillating cultural programme on this occasion based on the theme of patriotism and national integration.

On this occasion, Mr. Ramesh Kumar also honored Prof Shiv Nirmohi who has been recently conferred with Padma Shri on Republic Day for his outstanding contribution in the field of literature. He said that his work recognized at the national level would go a long way in spreading Dogra art, heritage, culture and legacy, far and wide.

Mr. Ramesh Kumar gave away prizes and appreciation to the COVID Warriors from various departments, Social Workers and Students who were adjudged best in the march-past and presentation of cultural programme

Sports Activities in SMVD Shrine Board's Sports Complex

Archery

The archers trained at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra have brought laurels by winning 88 medals at 2-day long J&K Archery Championship concluded at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex, Katra 5th March. As many as 34 archers participated in all the categories of this championship held from 3rd – 4th March, organized by J&K Archery Association under the aegis of J&K Sports Council and J&K Olympic Association in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.



J&K UT Archery Championship



Athletic Championship

20th UT (State) Athletic Championship was held at Palora BSF Stadium, Jammu w.e.f. 29th to 31st of March 2022 in which 29 Athletes (13 Girls & 16 boys) participated. In the event the athletes of Shrine Board won 13 Gold, 11 Silver and Bronze 08 medal. Mr. Vasu Sapolia was announced as Best Athlete in J&K (UT).



Winners of 20th UT (State) Athletic Championship

International Women's Day

International Women's Day was organized on 8th of March 2022 in Sports Complex. The events of Badminton, Athletics, Kho - Kho, Basketball, Tug of War and Shot put involving employees of the Shrine Board, SMVD Nursing College and local persons from surrounding the town area were conducted.

National Shooting Championship

64th National Shooting Championship Competition (NSCC) in small bore Rifle was held at M.P State Shooting Academy Shooting Range, Goregaon, Bhopal (M.P) w.e.f 25th Nov to 10th Dec, 2021, wherein 07 Shooters of Shrine Board's Sports Complex participated. Out of which 04 were selected for National trials.

In an another event of State Shooting Championship which was held at DYSS Office Gandhi Nagar, Jammu w.e.f. 6th to 7th March 2022, wherein 08 Shooters of Shrine Board's Sports Complex participated and won 01 Gold, 04 Silver & 01 Bronze medals. In addition, Selection trials for Shooting Championship were held at Bhopal w.e.f. 8th to 13th of March 2022 wherein, 03 Shooters of the Shrine Board's Sports Complex participated and were selected for National trials

Judo Championship

Senior Judo Championship 2021-2022 was held at M.A Stadium, Jammu on 31st of March 2022 in which 13 Judokas (07 boys & 06 girls), 01 Coach from Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra participated who won 01 Gold, 01 Silver and 04 Bronze Medals were won.



Winners of Judo championship

Surya Namaskar Mission

On the eve of 75th year of Independence of India, the programme of 75 crore Surya namaskar Mission was celebrated by Kreedha Bharati Jammu & Kashmir & Patanjli Yoga peeth in collaboration with Shrine Board at Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra on 30th of January 2022, in which 650 persons including Shrine Board Staffs, Prominent Citizens, and Sports persons of Sports Complex participated.

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