

जय माता दी



**Administrative Report
2018-19**



SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD







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1. Introduction

The Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, situated in the Trikuta Hills in Reasi District of Jammu and Kashmir, is one of the most revered Shrines, where millions of devotees from all nooks and corners of the country and across the globe come to pay their obeisance.

2. About Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

- 2.1 Prior to the formation of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, the pilgrimage to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine was managed by the Dharmarth Trust and 'Baridars'. Though the number of pilgrims to the Shrine and magnitude of donations progressively increased over the years, yet there was no discernible improvement in infrastructural facilities for the pilgrims.
- 2.2 However, over the years, a perceptible positive improvement in yatri facilities was observed after the management of the Holy Shrine was taken over by the Shrine Board in 1986. Since then, pilgrim-oriented development has all along remained top most priority of the Board. With the blessings of the Deity, Shrine Board has taken sustained initiatives to provide facilities to yatri. The entire stretch of the holy pilgrimage has witnessed tremendous growth in terms of infrastructure, despite constrains of terrain. The Shrine area has witnessed all round improvement in pilgrim facilities like construction of comfortable tracks, stair cases, well maintained hygienic toilets, catering units, cloak rooms, blanket stores, accommodation units, water supply, landscaping, medical facilities, disaster resistant shelter sheds etc.
- 2.3 The tracks leading to the Shrine have now been widened and made pedestrian friendly by laying tiles made of skid free material. The slope



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stabilization of vulnerable stretches has been done by cladding and construction of retaining walls to protect yatris against vagaries of nature like landslides and shooting stones. An 8 feet high welded mesh fence has been erected all along the tracks as an added safety measure. With operationalisation of state-of-the-art Multipurpose Audio System along the entire stretch of track from Banganga to Bhawan, the ambience and spiritual bliss has further been enhanced with devotional music, spiritual songs, "Chants", "Mantras", "Stotras" and Bhaints. This facility is also being commissioned on the Tarakote Marg between Katra and Adhkuwari very soon.

- 2.4 The rudimentary drinking water facility that existed prior to the establishment of the Shrine Board has been replaced with a large number of potable drinking water points and water coolers to ensure safe and continuous drinking water supply all along the track. Besides, water ATMs have also been installed at several points to provide free of cost ultra filtered water to yatris.
- 2.5 The entire track from Katra to Bhawan has been adequately lit with LED lights presenting a beautiful view of the Bhawan and the entire Shrine area during nights.
- 2.6 Adequate arrangement of healthcare has also been made for the pilgrims with availability of qualified medical professionals and infrastructure in the medical units operating on different locations on the track. Provision of ambulances has also been made on the track to shift patients for specialized treatment at CHC Katra and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal. Adequate arrangements are in place to shift the serious cases to SMVDNSH, Kakryal on Board's expenses.
- 2.7 Sanitation has been accorded very high focus by the Shrine Board and adequate sanitation staff has been deployed 24x7 to keep the track,



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establishments and the entire Shrine area clean. For the purpose, latest eco-friendly green technologies have been adopted to achieve the desired results. These initiatives of the Board have been duly recognized at the national level with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Katra, having been selected by the Central Government under the Swachh Iconic Places Project. This has started giving boost to sanitation, cleanliness and civic amenities in Katra and the Shrine area through a range of infrastructural and technological interventions. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine has won recognition on national level in 2017 and 2018 for being one of the 'Best Swachh Iconic' places.

- 2.8 The tin-shed housed toilets that existed prior to 1986 have been replaced with au courant Toilet Blocks with waterless urinals on track, residential accommodations and establishments of the Board. Switching over to this technology has an added advantage of saving a large quantity of water which was otherwise required for flushing of traditional toilets. A chain of Sewage Treatment Plants has been put in place which has given further impetus to the efforts of the Shrine Board towards protection of environment and ecology. The massive plantation along the track and greening of the entire Trikuta Hills is also a significant part of this initiative.
- 2.9 Further, despite geographically challenging terrain, a number of other major pilgrim-centric infrastructure development projects have been completed, many are under execution and several others are in the pipeline to meet the futuristic requirements of the pilgrimage. These include formulation of a Master Plan for Bhawan and the Extended Shrine Area, which is being implemented in a phased manner. This will in a big way further add to the existing facilities for the pilgrims.
- 2.10 The continuous initiatives being taken by the Board for expansion and upgradation of facilities for the pilgrimage have resulted in a phenomenal



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increase in the number of pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine. The number of yatris which was 13.96 lakh in 1986 stood at 85,86,541 in 2018.

- 2.11 As provided in the Act, the Governor of the State of J&K is the ex-officio Chairman of the Shrine Board who can nominate (in the manner as prescribed in the 'Act') upto nine eminent persons to the Board as its Members.

3. Mandate of the Shrine Board

Section 18 of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act of 1988 assigns the following duties to the Board:

1. To arrange for the proper performance of worship at the Shrine.
2. To provide facilities for the proper performance of worship by the pilgrims.
3. To make arrangements for the safe custody of the funds, valuable security and jewellery and for the preservation of the Shrine Fund.
4. To undertake for the benefit of worshippers and pilgrims:
 - a) The construction of buildings for their accommodation;
 - b) The construction of sanitary work; and
 - c) The improvement of means of communication.
5. To undertake the developmental activities concerning the area of the Shrine and its surroundings.
6. To make suitable arrangements for the imparting of religious instructions and general education.
7. To make provision of medical relief for worshippers and pilgrims.
8. To make provision for the payments of suitable emoluments to the salaried staff.
9. To do all such things as may be incidental and conducive to the efficient management, maintenance and administration of the Shrine and the Shrine Fund and the convenience of the pilgrims.



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4. Constitution of the Board as on 31-03-2019

CHAIRMAN: Shri Satya Pal Malik, Governor, J&K (August 2019 -).

MEMBERS:

- Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.).
- Mr. Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli.
- Major General Shiv Kumar Sharma, AVSM (Retd.).
- H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.
- Sh. Vijay Dhar.
- Sh. K. B. Kachru.
- Shri K. K. Sharma.

Profile of Hon'ble Chairman

Shri Satya Pal Malik:

Governor J&K and Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. Born on 24 July 1946 to a family of agriculturists in village Hisawada, Baghpat (district Meerut) in Uttar Pradesh, Shri Malik after graduating in science, pursued law degree at Meerut University before joining politics. He also holds a diploma in Parliamentary Affairs from the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies run by Parliament of India. He was a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1974-77. He was also the member of the 9th Lok Sabha and represented Aligarh Constituency from 1989 to 1991. He was member of Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh for two terms



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of 1980-86 and 1986-1992. He served as Union Minister of State, Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism from 21 April 1990 to 10 November 1990. He has remained member of several Parliamentary Committees including Panel of Chairman, General Purposes Committee, Business Advisory Committee, Chairman, Joint Sub-Committee on Telecasting of Proceedings of both Houses of Parliament, Chairman, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table and Parliamentary Consultative Committee. He is also a poet and author and has written two books on poetry and a Political Commentary. Having special interest in history and archaeology, he is also known for his social activities including establishing day-care centres for the children of poor labourers. He has also organised several farmers' and youth movements during his more than six decades long political career. He was previously the Governor of Bihar and Odisha and was appointed J&K Governor by the President of India on 21 August 2018 and was sworn-in as the 13th Governor of Jammu and Kashmir on 23 August 2018.

Profile of Hon'ble Board Members

Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.)

Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.) is the former Director General of Police, J&K.

Mr. Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli

Mr. Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli is the former Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court and former Chairman of Central Administrative Tribunal.

Maj. Gen. Shiv Kumar Sharma, AVSM (Retd.)

Maj. Gen. Shiv Kumar Sharma is a retired Army officer, decorated with AVSM.

H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar is a spiritual leader and founder of the Art of Living Foundation.

Shri Vijay Dhar

Shri Vijay Dhar is an eminent educationist who has set up DP Dhar Memorial Trust and Delhi Public School, Srinagar to contribute in the field of education.



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Shri K. B. Kachru

Sh. K. B. Kachru is the Chairman of Emeritus, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group and former Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Indian Tourism Development Corporation.

Shri K. K. Sharma

Shri K. K. Sharma is the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of AIMIL Pharmaceuticals (I) Ltd.

PREVIOUS CHAIRMAN: Shri N. N. Vohra, Governor, J&K (June 2008 – August 2018).

BOARD MEMBERS PRIOR TO RECONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD BY THE HON'BLE CHAIRMAN ON 5 FEBRUARY 2019:

- Dr. E. Sreedharan, Principal Advisor, Delhi Metro Rail Corp (March 2009 – February 2019).
- Smt. Sudha Murty, Chairperson, Infosys Foundation (March 2009 - February 2019).
- Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary, J&K (March 2003 - February 2019).
- Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, eminent Santoor Maestro (January 2005 - February 2019).
- Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.), former Director General of Police, J&K (March 2012 -).
- Shri H. L. Maini, former Managing Director, J&K PCC (March 2012 - February 2019).
- Mr. Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli, former Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court (January 2015 -).
- Maj. Gen. Shiv Kumar Sharma, AVSM (Retd.). (January 2015 -).
- Shri. B. B. Vyas, IAS, (April 2017 – December 2018).



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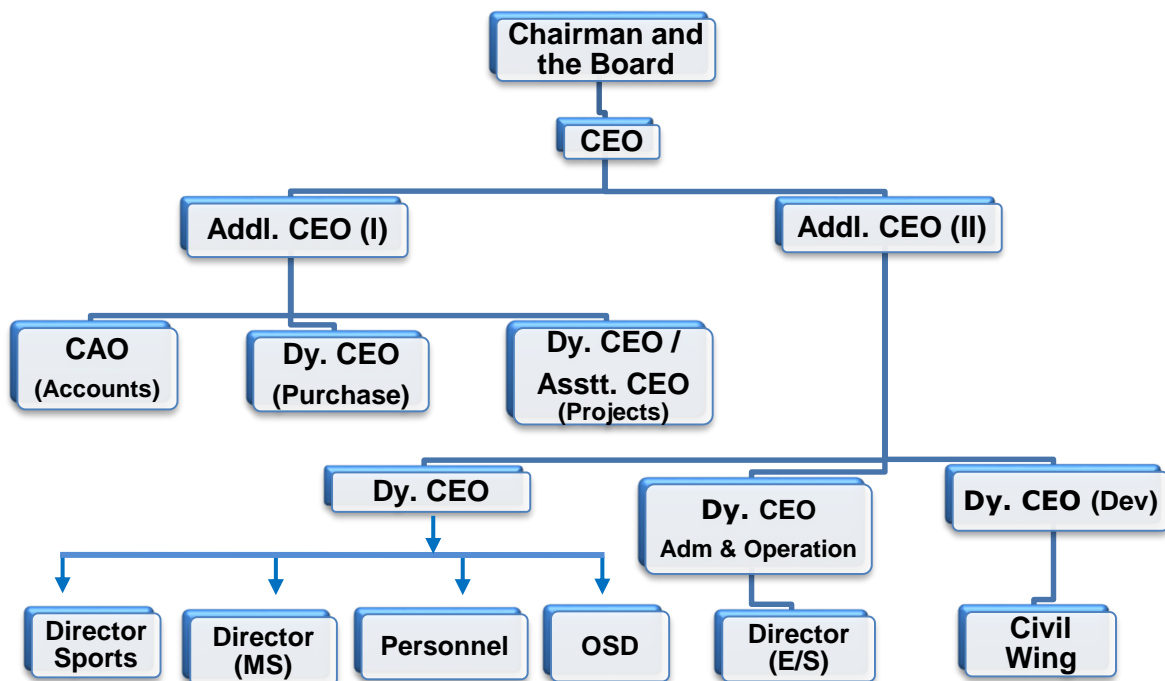
Officers of the Board as on 31-03-2019

- Shri Umang Narula, IAS, Chief Executive Officer
(30 November 2017 - 26 June 2018).
- Shri Dheeraj Gupta, IAS, Chief Executive Officer
(26 June 2018 - 15 October 2018).
- Shri Simrandeep Singh, IAS, Chief Executive Officer
(15 October 2018 - _).
- Dr. M. K. Kumar, IAS, Additional Chief Executive Officer
(18 April 2014 -10 November 2018).
- Shri Anshul Garg, IAS, Additional Chief Executive Officer
(05 June 2017 -15 October 2018).
- Shri Vivek Verma, IAS, Additional Chief Executive Officer
(12 November 2018 -).
- Shri Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer
(21 December 2015 -).
- Dr. Arvind Karwani, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer
(21 December 2015 -).
- Shri Amit Vermani, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer
(06 April 2015 -).
- Shri Deepak Dubey, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer
(3 July 2017 -).
- Shri Jagdish Chander, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer
(22 February 2019 -).
- Shri Manu Hansa, Assistant Chief Executive Officer
(01 February 2016 -).



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ORGANISATIONAL SETUP



- * Field units are headed by Senior Managers/ Managers/ other officers who report to the respective Dy. CEOs.



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5. Yatra during the period

5.1 During the calendar year 2018, a total of 85,86,541 pilgrims visited the Shrine as against 81,78,318 yatris who paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum in 2017.

Yatra over the years

S. No.	Year	No. of Pilgrims
1	1986	13,95,832
2	1987	18,57,935
3	1988	19,92,605
4	1989	23,12,011
5	1990	21,69,093
6	1991	31,15,447
7	1992	35,16,267
8	1993	33,68,665
9	1994	37,04,944
10	1995	40,11,627
11	1996	43,35,432
12	1997	44,34,233
13	1998	46,22,297
14	1999	46,70,454
15	2000	52,17,715
16	2001	50,56,919
17	2002	44,32,178
18	2003	54,00,296
19	2004	61,09,895
20	2005	62,51,998
21	2006	69,50,573
22	2007	74,17,619
23	2008	67,92,223
24	2009	82,34,896



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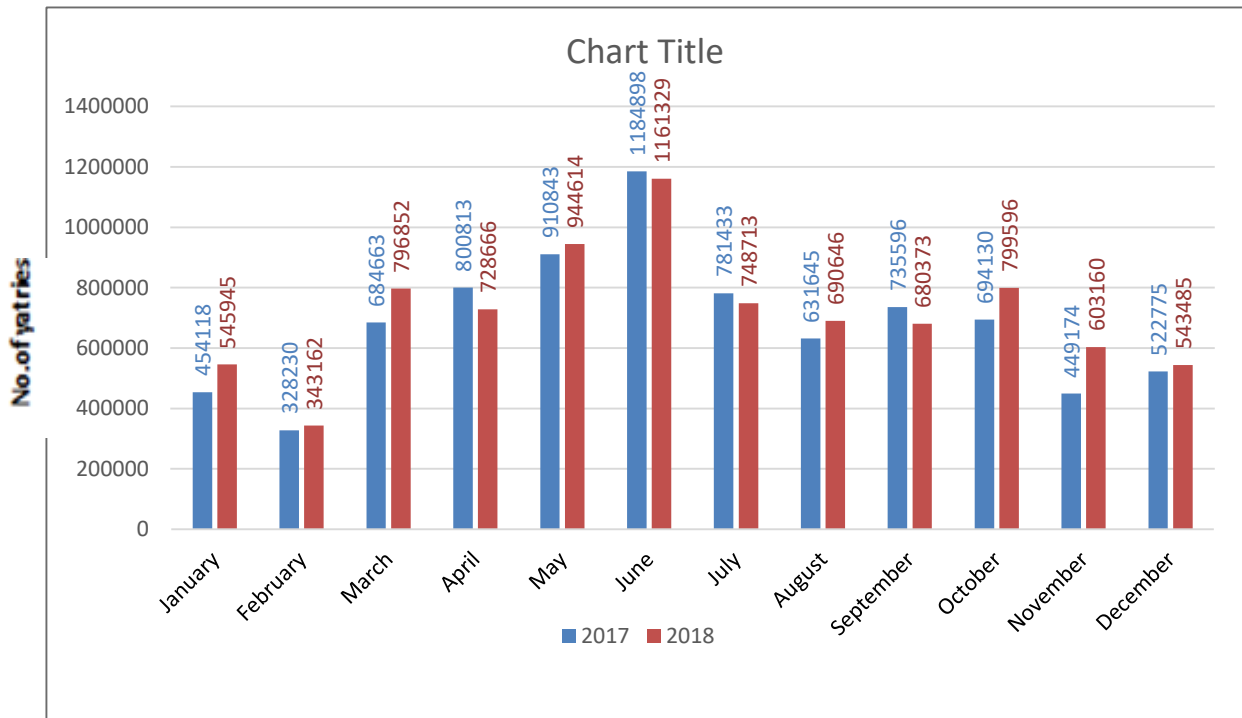
25	2010	87,49,326
26	2011	1,01,15,647
27	2012	1,04,95,269
28	2013	93,23,647
29	2014	78,03,193
30	2015	77,76,604
31	2016	77,23,721
32	2017	81,78,318
33	2018	85,86,541

Month Wise Yatra comparison 2017 v/s 2018

Month	2017 No. of Yatris	2018 No. of Yatris
January	454118	545945
February	328230	343162
March	684663	796852
April	800813	728666
May	910843	944614
June	1184898	1161329
July	781433	748713
August	631645	690646
September	735596	680373
October	694130	799596
November	449174	603160
December	522775	543485
Total	81,78,318	85,86,541



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The largest number of pilgrims who visited the Shrine was during June, 2018. The months of April, May and June are the peak season of the pilgrimage while the lean period is during November to February.



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Yatris travel by various modes, as detailed below:

5.2 Helicopter Services

The one-way passenger fare for heli-travel between Katra and Sanjichhat is Rs. 1045/- per passenger (inclusive of all taxes). These rates are fixed after a transparent bidding process. The successful bidders i.e. M/s Global Vectra Helicorp Ltd. and M/s Himalayan Heli Services Pvt. Ltd. are operating the heli-services. Heli bookings can be made on-line two months in advance and are also available on current ticket counters where preference is generally given to senior citizens and specially-abled pilgrims. A total of 5,31,820 yatris availed this service in the year 2018-19.

5.3 Battery Car Services

Pollution free Battery Car service between Adhkuwari and Bhawan on Himkoti Marg is available with preference to senior citizens and specially-abled pilgrims. The service is available between 7.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m., which varies due to yatra numbers. The charges per passenger for 30 minute journey from Adhkuwari to Bhawan and from Bhawan to Adhkuwari are Rs. 354/- and Rs. 236/- (inclusive of taxes), respectively. The booking for Battery Car service is available only through current counters both at Adhkuwari and at Manokamna Bhawan. A total of 5,57,397 pilgrims used this facility in the year 2018-19.

5.4 Ponies

Ponies are available for the journey from Katra to Bhawan via Sanjichhat Track (also known as old route) which takes about 3 hours to complete. There are more than 4,000 ponies available for pilgrims that have been registered with the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA),



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Katra. Deputy Commissioner, Reasi is the Chairman and SDM, Katra the Secretary of the SPCA, Katra Unit.

5.5 Palkis

Palanquins are available for the pilgrims who prefer to utilize this mode of transportation between Darshani Deodi and Bhawan.

The rates for Ponies, Pithoo and Palki have been fixed by the Deputy Commissioner, Reasi. Presently, the hire charges for each of the services are as follows:

S. No.	Mode	Destination	Charges (Rs.) (exclusive of taxes)	Remarks
1.	Ponies	Katra-Bhawan (via Sanjichhat)	1200/-	One way
2.	Pithoo	Katra to Bhawan (via Sanjichhat)	600/-	One way
3.	Palki	Katra to Bhawan (via Sanjichhat)	3700/-	One way

5.6 Auspicious periods of Navratras

The most auspicious periods of Navratras both in April and October witnessed a heavy rush of pilgrims and to facilitate the increasing number of yatris, Shrine Board made special arrangements. These included decorating the Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Atka and the area surrounding it with flowers brought from various parts of the country and abroad. Sufficient provision of food and supply of water and power were made along the track and in the Bhawan area, besides ensuring sanitation along the entire route. Special arrangements for providing "fasting food" ('Vrat' food) were made at the Bhojanalayas of the Board. Shat Chandi Maha Yagya was organised by



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the Board at the Holy Cave Shrine during Navratras for peace and prosperity, in accordance with the prevalent practice.



Profusely decorated Bhawan and Atka during Navratras



A view of Adhkuwari Temple during Navratras



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5.7 Winter Arrangements

Special arrangements were made for facilitation of the visiting pilgrims during winter season on the track and in the Bhawan area. These arrangements included provision of *sagris* (fire pots) and lukewarm drinking water. Provision of rubber mats was also done in the winter months in the queue line from Gate No. 3 upto the Holy Cave.

5.8 Opening of Natural Cave

As per prevalent practice the natural Cave was opened for pilgrims during winter months after performing special pooja. The SDM Bhawan was authorised to regulate the darshan through natural Cave, after factoring in the rush and congestion at Bhawan, to avoid any inconvenience to the pilgrims. During 2018-19, 91,594 pilgrims had darshan through the natural Cave.



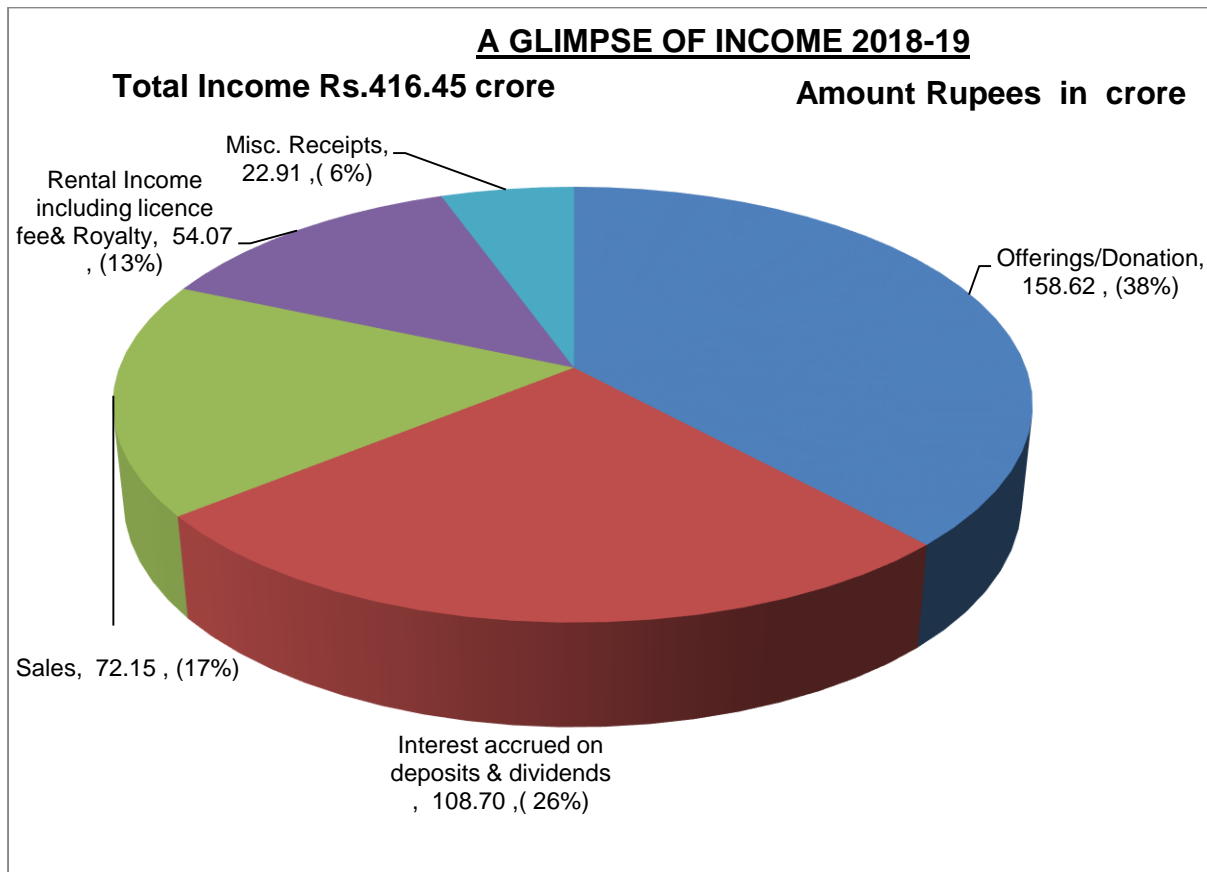
Pilgrims having darshan via the natural Cave



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6. Income and Expenditure

Income during FY 2018-19		
S.No.	Items	Amount Rs. (In crore)
1	Offerings/Donation	158.62
2	Interest accrued on deposits & dividends	108.70
3	Sales	72.15
4	Rental Income including Licence Fee & Royalty	54.07
5	Misc. Receipts	22.91
	Total	416.45

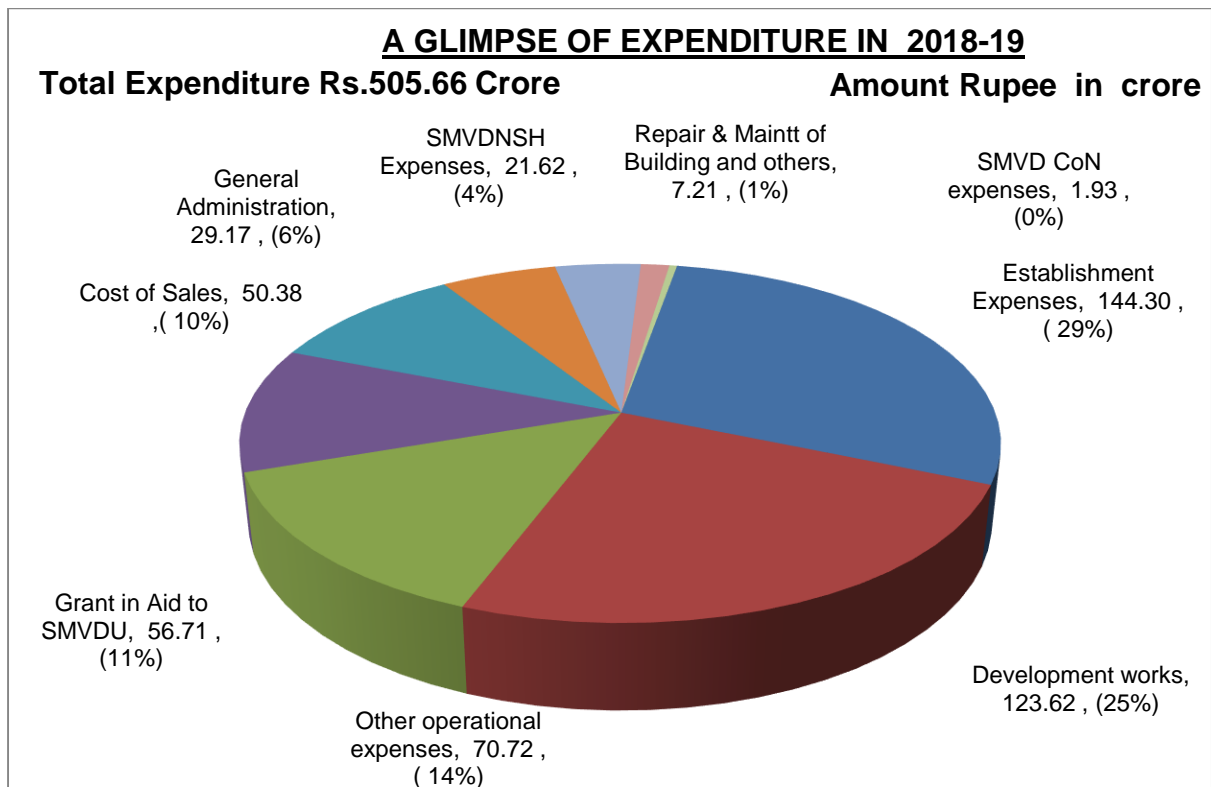


Note: The figures shown in the pie chart are Pre-Audited and are subject to change after finalisation of Audit for the F.Y. 2018-19



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Expenditure during FY 2018-19		
S.No .	Items	Amount Rs.(In crore)
1	Establishment Expenses	144.30
2	Development works	123.62
3	<i>Other operational expenses</i>	70.72
4	<i>Grant in Aid to SMVDU</i>	56.71
5	Cost of sales	50.38
6	General Administration	29.17
7	<i>SMVDNSH Expenses</i>	21.62
8	<i>Repair & Maintt of Building and others</i>	7.21
9	SMVD CoN Expenses	1.93
	Total	505.66



Note: The figures shown in the pie chart are Pre-Audited and are subject to change after finalisation of Audit for the F.Y. 2018-19



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7. Audit Report

The Statutory Audit of the Shrine Board's Accounts for the FY 2017-18 has been conducted by M/s S.R. Batliboi and Associate. The Statutory Audit for FY 2018-19 is likely to be started in the month of July 2019 and is expected to be completed in the month of September 2019.



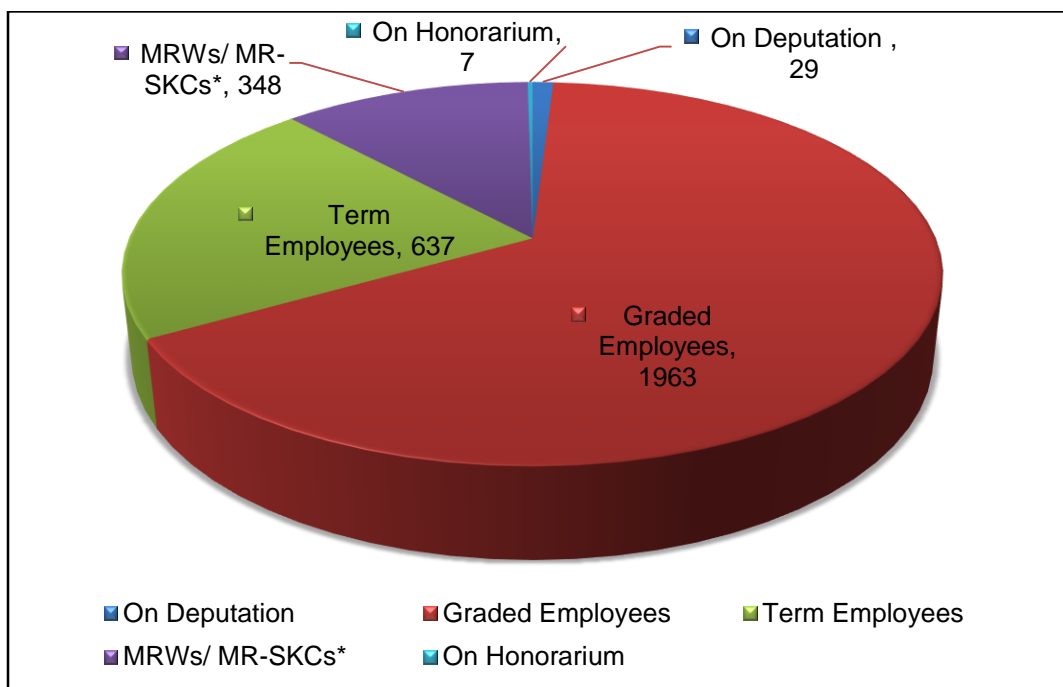
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8. Human Resource Management

8.1 The total manpower employed by the Board is as follows:

- **Strength as on 31.03.2019**

Type of Employment	Manpower Strength
On Deputation	29
Graded Employees	1963
Term Employees	637
MRWs/ MR-SKCs*	348
On Honorarium	07
Total	2984

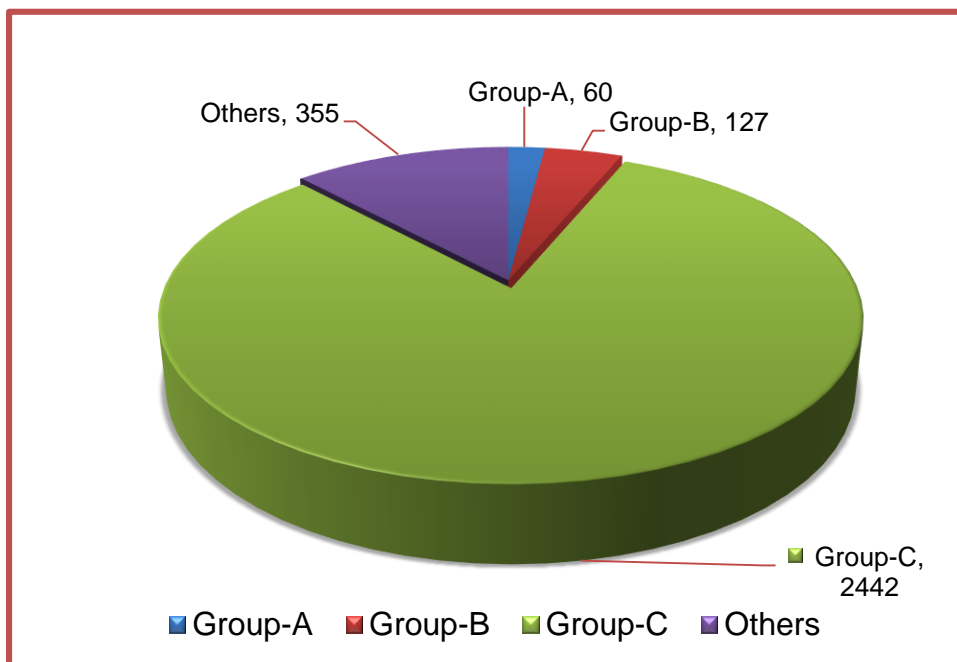


* Muster Roll Workers/Muster Roll Safaikaramcharis



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Group wise Manpower Strength	
Group-A	60
Group-B	127
Group-C	2442
Others	355
Total	2984



- During April 2018 to March 2019, 115 employees joined the Board under various categories as under:

On Deputation : 10
On Term Employment : 105



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- During financial year 2018-19, 78 employees left the Board, for various reasons as per the detail given below:

S. No.	Reason for leaving Board service	Group A	Group B	Group C	Others	Total
1	On Transfer/ Repatriation	8	5	2	0	15
2	On Superannuation	1	1	19	0	21
3	On Resignation	3	6	20	0	29
4	Death	0	1	3	0	4
5	Other reasons	0	1	7	1	9
Total		12	14	51	1	78

8.2 Capacity Building

Training and development is an integral part of any organization. It provides continuous learning by enhancing the skills and competencies of employees to face new challenges and broaden their perspective. This perspicuously results in better performance and outcomes. In furtherance of these objectives, at its 56th Meeting (held on 11.09.2015), the Board had approved a proposal regarding capacity building / skill up-gradation of the Board's employees through training programmes imparted by various domain experts. The Board has also approved an annual allocation of Rs. 100.00 lakh for carrying out the skill up-gradation programmes for its employees.

Various domain experts and national level institutes/ agencies such as National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Institute of Fire Engineers (IFE), New Delhi, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Gujarat, Safety Circle, Chandigarh, Mit Kat, New Delhi were approached for imparting quality training programmes in their respective domains.



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Employees participating in a capacity building training programme

A total of 121 trainings were organized during the period - 01.04.2018 to 31.03.2019, covering different categories of employees. Besides capacity building programmes, workshops, seminars, conferences benefiting 2961 employees on diverse subjects were conducted. Several outreach programmes for service providers and school children were also organised.



Training being imparted in mechanised sanitation



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A paradigm shift vis-a-vis approach to trainings was introduced in 2018 with outcome of trainings reflected in APR of employees. The training programmes envisage three sets of trainings:

- i. Core skill set
- ii. Supplementary skill set
- iii. Employee welfare and well being

8.3 Training Programmes conducted during 2018-19

Category wise Training Programmes				
S. no.	Name of the training programme	Training institute/ faculty	Location/ venue	No. of participants
1	Training on re-programming of Cash Register Machines installed in Catering outlets of the Shrine Board		Annapurna Bhojanalaya Niharika	10
2	Training Programme on Basic Computer Skills	SMVDU, Kakryal, Katra	SMVDU, Kakryal, Katra	40
3	Training Programme for Disaster Management Task Force of SMVDSB	NDRF	Sports Stadium, Katra	45
4	Training Programme on Basic Life Support	Medical Officers of SMVDSB (Dr. Neeraj Sharma & Dr. Sikander Hussain)	SGC, Katra	30
5	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness	Safety Circle Pvt. Ltd, Chandigarh	SGC, Katra	25
6	Training Programme on Inventory Management	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	4
7	Training Programme for the Electricians of SMVD Shrine Board	Er. Suket Gupta, Principal	Govt. Polytechnic College, Reasi	10



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8	Training Programme on Women's Safety Awareness and Self-Defence	M/s Mitkat Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd	SGC, Katra	30
9	Training Programme on Defensive Driving, Road & Driver Safety	M/s Safety Circle Pvt. Ltd Chandigarh	SGC, Katra	25
10	Training Programme on Construction Safety	M/s Safety Circle Pvt. Ltd Chandigarh	SGC, Katra	25
11	Training Programme on handling of Bio-metric Time & Attendance Machine	M/s Infitel Systems Pvt. Ltd, Jammu	Conference Hall, SGC, Katra	92
12	Training Programme for the Plumbers of SMVD Shrine Board	Er. Suket Gupta, Principal	Govt. Polytechnic College, Reasi	8
13	Training Programme on Basic Computer Skills	NIELIT, Jammu	NIELIT, Jammu	20
14	Training Programme on Basic Computer Skills	NIELIT, Jammu	NIELIT, Jammu	19
15	Training Programme on Basic Life Support & First Aid	In-house Medical Officers	SGC, Katra	30
16	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness	Dr. Sikander Hussain, MO	SGC, Katra	30
17	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness	Dr. Mamta Sharma, MO	SGC, Katra	30
18	Orientation-cum-Training Programme for Newly Recruited Jr. Managers	In-House Experts	SGC & various track locations	1
19	Training Programme on Basic Computer Skills	SMVDU, Kakryal, Katra	SMVDU, Kakryal, Katra	40
20	Training Programme - Automatic Fare Collection System (AFCS) of Passenger Ropeway System	Sh. Manoj Upadhyaya, Sr. Software Engineer of M/s Datamatics Global Services P. Ltd	Manokamna Bhawan, Phase II	6



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21	Training Programme on Computer Network Administration	NIELIT, Jammu	NIELIT, Jammu	8
22	Training Programme for the Medical Officers & Para Medical Staff of Shrine Board	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	7
23	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness for Male members	Dr. Sikander Hussain, MO	SGC, Katra	40
24	Training Programme on Basic Life Support & First Aid	In-house Medical Officers	SGC, Katra	40
25	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness for Female members	Dr. Mamta Sharma, MO	SGC, Katra	40
26	Training Programme on Health, Safety & Sanitation for the SKC's of SMVD Shrine Board	Sh. Imran Chowdary, Jr. Manager, Sanitation	SGC, Katra	40
27	Training Programme for the Electricians of SMVD Shrine Board	Er. Suket Gupta, Principal	Govt. Polytechnic College, Reasi	9
28	Training Programme for the Plumbers of SMVD Shrine Board	Er. Suket Gupta, Principal	Govt. Polytechnic College, Reasi	8
29	Training Programme on Developing People: HRD for Non-HR Managers	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	2
30	Training Programme on Basic Disaster Manager & First Aid	In-house DMTF Members	SGC, Katra	30
31	Training Programme for the Medical Officers & Para Medical Staff of Shrine Board	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	7
32	Training Programme on Purchase Management	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	2
33	Training Programme on "Ethics in Public Administration"	Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Jammu	IIPA Jammu	4



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34	Orientation-cum-Training Programme for Newly Recruited Jr. Assistants, Steno Typists & Accts. Assistants	In-house trainers	SGC & various track locations	21
35	Orientation-cum-Training Programme for Newly Recruited Jr. Assistants, Steno Typists & Accts. Assistants	In-house trainers	SGC & various track locations	3
36	Training Programme on Basic Computer Skills	NIELIT, Jammu	NIELIT, Jammu	20
37	Training Programme for the Electricians of SMVD Shrine Board	Er. Suket Gupta, Principal	Govt. Polytechnic College, Reasi	10
38	Training Programme for the Carpenters of SMVD Shrine Board	Er. Suket Gupta, Principal	Govt. Polytechnic College, Reasi	7
39	Training Programme for the Medical Officers & Para Medical Staff of Shrine Board	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	7
40	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness	Dr. Sikander Hussain, MO	SGC, Katra	40
41	Workshop on Goods & Service Tax	Institute of Secretariat & Training Management, New Delhi	ISTM, New Delhi	4
42	Training Programme for the Medical Officers & Para Medical Staff of Shrine Board	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	7
43	Training Programme for handling guests at Bhojnalayas / Room Service	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	30
44	Training Programme for handling guests at Bhojnalayas / Room Service	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	30
45	Training Programme on Basic Life Support & First Aid	In-house Medical Officers	SGC, Katra	40



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46	Training Programme on Computer Network Administration	NIELIT, Jammu	NIELIT, Jammu	8
47	Training Programme on Health, Safety & Sanitation for the SKCs of SMVD Shrine Board	Sh. Imran Chowdary, Jr. Manager, Sanitation	SGC, Katra	40
48	Training Programme on Basic Computer Skills	NIELIT, Jammu	NIELIT, Jammu	20
49	Training Programme for the Medical Officers & Para Medical Staff of Shrine Board	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	7
50	Training Programme for the Medical Officers & Para Medical Staff of Shrine Board	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	8
51	Training Programme for the Medical Officers & Para Medical Staff of Shrine Board	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	7
52	Training Programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	Dr. Sikander Hussain, MO	SGC, Katra	30
53	Training Programme on Stress Management	Safety Circle Pvt. Ltd, Chandigarh	SGC, Katra	30
54	Training Programme on Construction Safety	Safety Circle Pvt. Ltd, Chandigarh	SGC, Katra	30
55	Training Programme for the Electricians of SMVD Shrine Board	Er. Suket Gupta, Principal	Govt. Polytechnic College, Reasi	7
56	Training Programme for the Carpenters of SMVD Shrine Board	Er. Suket Gupta, Principal	Govt. Polytechnic College, Reasi	7
57	Training Programme for Disaster Management Task Force of SMVDSB	NDRF	Sports Stadium, Katra	45
58	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness	Dr. Mamta Sharma, MO	SGC, Katra	25
59	Training Programme for handling guests at Bhojanalayas / Room Service	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	30



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60	Training Programme on Basic Disaster Manager & First Aid	Master Trainers of SMVDSB	SGC, Katra	30
61	Training Programme for handling guests at Bhojanalayas / Room Service	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	30
62	Training Programme for the Employees of Forest Wing	In-house faculty of Forest Wing	Kunia Nursery	15
63	Training Programme on Basic Life Support & First Aid	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	25
64	Training Programme on Basic Computer Skills	NIELIT, Jammu	NIELIT, Jammu	20
65	Training Programme for Supervisory Staff on "F&B services in respect of catering outlets of SMVD Shrine Board"	FCI Jammu	FCI, Jammu	10
66	Training Programme for the Medical Officers & Para Medical Staff of Shrine Board	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	8
67	Training Programme for Sanitation Supervisors of SMVD Shrine Board	Organica Biotech Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai	Mumbai	4
68	Training Programme for the Employees of Forest Wing	In-house faculty of Forest Wing	Kunia Nursery	15
69	Training Programme for the Electricians of SMVD Shrine Board	Er. Suket Gupta, Principal	Govt. Polytechnic College, Reasi	10
70	Training Programme for handling guests at Bhojanalayas / Room Service	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	30
71	Training Programme on Stress Management	Safety Circle Pvt. Ltd, Chandigarh	SGC, Katra	30
72	Training Programme on Basic Computer Skills	NIELIT, Jammu	NIELIT, Jammu	20
73	41st Refresher Course for Pujaris / Pandits of SMVDSB	SMVD Gurukul	SMVD Gurukul	10
74	Orientation-cum-Training Programme for newly recruited Jr. Manager - Ms.	In-house experts		1



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	Komal Jamwal			
75	Training Programme for handling guests at Bhojnalayas / Room Service	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	30
76	Training Programme for the Medical Officers & Para Medical Staff of Shrine Board	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	7
77	Training Programme for the employees of Forest Wing	In-house	Kunia Nursery	15
78	Training Programme on Basic Disaster Manager & First Aid	In-house DMTF Members	Sports Stadium, Katra	30
79	Training Programme for handling guests at Bhojanalayas / Room Service	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	5
80	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness	Dr. Sikander Hussain, MO	SGC, Katra	40
81	Training Programme for the Medical Officers & Para Medical Staff of Shrine Board	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	7
82	Training Programme for newly recruited Jr. Assistants	In-house faculty	SGC / NES / ES / TB / YRC,E&R, Niharika / Sports Stadium	4
83	Training Programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	Dr. Sikander Hussain, MO	SGC, Katra	40
84	Training Programme for the Employees of Forest Wing	In-house	Kunia Nursery	15
85	Training Programme on Basic Life Support	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO	SGC, Katra	30
86	Training Programme for the Cooks of Shrine Board	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	9
87	Training Programme for handling guests at Bhojanalayas / Room Service	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	30
88	Training Programme on Stress Management	Safety Circle Pvt. Ltd, Chandigarh	SGC, Katra	30



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90	Training Programme for handling guests at Bhojanalayas / Room Service	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	30
91	Training Programme on Health, Safety & Sanitation for the SKC's of SMVD Shrine Board	Sh. Imran Chowdary, Jr. Manager, Sanitation	Sports Stadium, Katra	40
92	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness of SMVDSB Employees	M/s Institute of Fire Engineers, New Delhi	Bhawan	120
93	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness of SMVDSB Employees	M/s Institute of Fire Engineers, New Delhi	Adhkuwari	120
94	Training Programme for handling guests at Bhojanalayas / Room Service	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	30
95	Training Programme on Basic Life Support	In-house Medical Officer & Para Medical Staff	SGC, Katra	40
96	Training Programme on Basic Computer Skills	SMVDU, Kakryal	SMVDU, Kakryal	40
97	Training Programme on Team Building	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	2
98	Training Programme on Finance for Non-Finance Executives	IIM Indore	IIM Indore	2
99	Training Programme on Stress Management and Ergonomics & Postures	Safety Circle (I) Pvt. Ltd	SGC, Katra	30
100	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness	Safety Circle (I) Pvt. Ltd	SGC, Katra	30
101	Orientation-cum-Training Programme for newly recruited Enforcement Sahayaks	In-house Faculty	SGC, Katra	24
102	Training Programme for the Cooks of Shrine Board	FCI Jammu	FCI, Jammu	12
103	Training Programme for handling guests at	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	30



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	Bhojanalayas / Room Service			
104	Finance for Non-Finance Executives	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	4
105	42 nd Refresher Course for Pandits / Pujaris of SMVDSB	SMVD Gurukul faculty	SMVD Gurukul	10
106	Training Programme for handling guests at Bhojanalayas / Room Service	FCI Jammu	SGC, Katra	30
107	Training Programme for the Cooks of Shrine Board	FCI Jammu	FCI, Jammu	12
108	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness of SMVDSB Employees	Inhouse DM Team SMVDSB	Bhawan	30
109	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness of SMVDSB Employees	In-house DM Team SMVDSB	Sanjichhat	30
110	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness of SMVDSB Employees	In-house DM Team SMVDSB	Adhkuwari	30
111	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness of SMVDSB Employees	In-house DM Team SMVDSB	SGC, Katra	30
112	Forest Fire Mitigation	NIDM (Dehradun)	FRI Dehradun	3
113	Training Programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO	SGC, Katra	40
114	Training Programme on Various Offerings & Phone Pe Loan Facility / Digital Products & Services	J&K Bank	SGC, Katra	100
115	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness	Safety Circle	SGC, Katra	30
116	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness	Safety Circle	SGC, Katra	30
117	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness of SMVDSB Employees	In-house DM Team SMVDSB	Bhawan	129



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118	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness of SMVDSB Employees	In-house DM Team SMVDSB	SGC, Katra	
119	Training Programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO	Bhawan	40
120	Training Programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO & Dr. Abhijeet Kotwal	Sanjichhat	40
121	Workshop on Noting & Drafting	ISTM New Delhi	ISTM New Delhi	3
			Total	2961



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8.4 Interactions & Grievance Redressal Camps

A robust institutional mechanism has been put in place for organising interactions and redressal of grievances of the staff. In this connection, the CEO and other concerned officers of the Board interact with them by organising grievance redressal programmes from time to time to address the difficulties of the staff deployed on the yatra track and various yatra locations. Awards/ appreciations are also given to selected Safaikaramcharis and other employees from time to time in these programmes to recognise their efforts and devotion to duty.



CEO Shrine Board having Interaction session with the staff

Besides, under the Open Door Policy, the Tuesday of every week is observed as 'Employee Grievance Day', wherein the CEO and a team of officers listen to the grievances and personnel related matters of the staff, with a view to ensuring speedy resolution. A total of 98 applications received in these sessions during 2018-19 were disposed of in a time bound manner.



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9. President visits Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

The President of India, Sh. Ram Nath Kovind, accompanied by Smt. Savita Kovind, First Lady, visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on 19 April 2018 and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum.



The President of India, Sh. Ram Nath Kovind being received at the Bhawan

During his brief visit, the President went around the Shrine Complex, viewed the facilities and met the pilgrims. Sh. Kovind prayed for the progress and prosperity of the people of the country. The then Governor and Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sh. N. N. Vohra, briefed the President about the continuing initiatives being taken for upgrading and expanding the infrastructure to cater to the progressively increasing number of pilgrims.

On arrival at the Panchhi Helipad from Jammu, the President was received by Sh. Umang Narula, the then CEO of the Shrine Board.



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10. Projects completed during the year

10.1. PM inaugurates Tarakote Marg and Material Ropeway

The Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi inaugurated two important infrastructure development projects completed by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at a function held at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium at Jammu University on 19 May 2018. These included exclusive pedestrian track – ‘Tarakote Marg between Katra and Adhkuwari’ and the ‘Siar Dabri-Bhawan Material Ropeway’.

Sh. N. N. Vohra, the then Governor and Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Ms. Mehbooba Mufti, the then Chief Minister; Sh. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Shipping; Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in PMO; Sh. R. K. Singh, Union Minister of State for Power; Dr. Nirmal Kumar Singh, Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly, besides many other dignitaries, including Members of the Shrine Board were among those present on the occasion.



The Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi inaugurating Tarakote Marg and Siar Dabri-Bhawan Material Ropeway at a function held at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium at Jammu University



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The then Governor gave a brief description of the two projects. Tarakote Marg is a 7.5 km long ramp style track which connects Banganga to Adhkuwari and has been completed at a cost of over Rs. 80 crore. It has been constructed for pilgrims who wish to walk to the Shrine. The opening of this Marg has very significantly decongested the existing Banganga-Adhkuwari track on which mules and ponies also ply. Tarakote Marg provides well designed facilities for the comfort and convenience of the pilgrims. The Shrine Board has also constructed a 1.5 km Link Road to connect the existing Banganga - Adhkuwari track to the new Tarakote Marg.



Pilgrims on way to the Shrine on the picturesque Tarakote Marg

As regards the second project, operation of the Material Ropeway, it has enabled transportation of construction and varied other materials from Siar Dabri to the Shrine. This Ropeway, costing about Rs. 12 crore, has the capacity for the movement of 5000 kg of materials per hour to the Shrine, thereby significantly decongesting the existing Banganga-Adhkuwari track on which mules and ponies also ply.



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A view of the Siar Dabri-Bhawan Material Ropeway



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11. Sh. Satya Pal Malik assumes office as 13th Governor of J&K

Sh. Satya Pal Malik was sworn-in as the 13th Governor of Jammu and Kashmir on 23 August 2018.

Chief Justice of J&K High Court, Justice Gita Mittal administered the oath of office to Sh. Malik at a simple but impressive function at bedecked sprawling lawns of Raj Bhavan in Srinagar. The warrant of appointment of Sh. Malik was read out by the Chief Secretary, Sh. B. V. R. Subrahmanyam.



Sh. Satya Pal Malik being sworn-in as the Governor of J&K

Sh. Malik was previously the Governor of Bihar and Odisha and was appointed as the Governor of J&K by the President of India on 21 August 2018. He has also served as Union Minister of State and member of several Parliamentary Committees during his illustrious political career.

It is pertinent to mention that the Governor of J&K is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.



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12. Governor visits Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 30 November 2019 visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum. He prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the State.

The Governor took stock of infrastructural facilities and other logistics put in place by the Shrine Board for the pilgrims and emphasised the need for providing best possible arrangements for the yatris. He asked the CEO of the Shrine Board for ensuring timely implementation of the various components of the Master Plan for establishing infrastructural facilities for the visiting pilgrims in a planned and holistic manner.



Governor, Sh. Satya Pal Malik interacting with pilgrims during his visit to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

The Governor complimented the entire team of Safaikaramcharis and their supervisors for providing cleanliness and hygienic facilities to the pilgrims and for winning the cleanest religious place award at the national level recently. As an encouragement to the dedicated team of Safaikaramcharis, the Governor announced an



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additional two and half day salary for all the SKCs as a special one-time incentive. He hoped that this will motivate them to give their best services to the visiting pilgrims.



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13. Governor inaugurates Bhawan-Bhairon Ghati Passenger Ropeway

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



Governor, Sh. Satya Pal Malik e-inaugurating Bhawan-Bhairon Passenger Ropeway

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



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Verma, Additional CEO and other officers of the Shrine Board were also present.

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

The Passenger Ropeway Project completed by the Shrine Board at a cost of about Rs. 85 crore, including its allied infrastructure and related pilgrim-centric facilities, has a carrying capacity of 800 persons per hour and with the completion of this ambitious project, the pilgrims, particularly the elderly and specially-abled who were earlier deterred by steep climb to Bhairon Ji Temple situated at a height of 6600 feet, are now fulfilling their wish of paying obeisance at Bhairon Ji Temple after darshan at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. The Ropeway has considerably reduced the travel time of the one-way journey between Bhawan and Bhairon Temple from one hour to just about three minutes. The Board charges a highly subsidized to and fro ticket of Rs. 100 per passenger to enable the maximum number of pilgrims to avail this facility.

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



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14. Governor lays foundation of new Durga Bhawan to provide free accommodation for 4000 pilgrims

To add additional facilities for meeting the accommodation needs of the pilgrims who visit the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, On 15 March 2018 laid foundation stone and launched the work for reconstruction of Durga Bhawan in the Bhawan area.

The Governor electronically laid the foundation and launched the work on this 5-storey building on the sidelines of the 64th meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board held under his chairmanship at the Raj Bhavan, Jammu.



Governor, Sh. Satya Pal Malik e-launching the work for reconstruction of Durga Bhawan in the Bhawan area

This earthquake resistant building, with a covered area of 60,000 sft, is estimated to cost Rs. 50 crore and will provide free accommodation facilities to around 4000 pilgrims. It will have provision of 4 elevators for vertical circulation. The construction of Durga Bhawan is one of the four works of Master Plan Phase-I for 2021. It is pertinent to mention that the Master Plan seeks to achieve target of ensuring maximum free of cost accommodation for yatris by 2031.



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15. Shrine Board launches hi-tech pre-paid system for hiring Ponies, Pithoos, Palkis by pilgrims

A hi-tech computerised pre-paid system, integrated with CCTV Cameras and Video Conferencing facilities, for hiring Ponies, Pithoos and Palkis, was launched from Katra on 26 February 2019 for the facilitation of pilgrims to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. This facility was made available to the pilgrims round the clock.

This system was formally inaugurated by Sh. B. S. Tuti, the then Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi; in the presence of Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Ms. Indu Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi; and Ms. Nisha Nathyal, the then SSP, Reasi at a function held at the Spiritual Growth Centre at Katra.



Hi-tech pre-paid system for hiring Ponies, Pithoos, Palkis by pilgrims launched at SGC, Katra

The system has integrated nine Pre-paid Counters from Katra to Bhairon, located at Katra, Banganga, Charan-Paduka, Adhkuwari-I, Adhkuwari-II, Sanjichhat, Parvati Bhawan at Bhawan, Pony Stand Bhawan and Bhairon, from where the pilgrims get Pony, Pithoo, Palki services at pre-determined rates. The Counters also serve as Grievance Registration Centres for yatri, which is conveyed to the Shrine Board Administration at Katra in escalation format. Each yatri is also given a helmet, elbow and



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knee pads to provide preventive cover against any accidental injury. 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.

Under this system, a stand-alone network has been set up by G-Max Pvt. Services Ltd., a Jammu based company, which got this contract from SMVDSB under Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) framework for five years.

The CEO of the Shrine Board said that the project is an outcome of NGT and Supreme Court orders on the issue of regulating mules, capping its count, management of mule dung and overcharging, etc.



Pilgrims availing pre-paid facility for hiring various services at a counter on the track leading to the Shrine

All the 9 Pre-paid Counters from Banganga to the Bhawan also became functional simultaneously which were inaugurated by Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO and Sh. Naresh Sharma, SDM Bhawan.

Sh. Rohit Singh Sambyal, Director, G Max IT Services; Dr. Arvind Karwani and Sh. Amit Vermani, Dy. CEOs of the Shrine Board; Sh. Manu Hansa, Assistant CEO; and Sh. Vivek Shekhar, SDPO, Katra were among those present on the occasion.



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16. Achievements and Highlights

The Board has been adopting latest technologies and taking recurring initiatives for enhancing the facilities for pilgrims in the fields of sanitation, hygiene, catering, filtered water and such others. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Katra, has also been selected by the Central Government under the Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) Project, which has started giving a further fillip to sanitation, cleanliness and civic amenities in Katra and Shrine area through a range of infrastructural and technological interventions. A glimpse of the initiatives undertaken during the last year is placed below:

16.1 Disaster Management training programmes for employees

Disaster Management has been one of the priority areas of the Board in view of difficult terrain and topography of the Shrine area. Training programmes are organised from time to time for keeping the staff battle ready to respond to any emergency or disaster situation, promptly and effectively. The training programmes on Basic Disaster Management are held for the employees from time to time. In this context, various aspects of Disaster Management preparedness of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine were reviewed at a meeting held under the chairmanship of Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at Katra on 28 March 2019.

Sh. Ravi Kumar, Commandant, 7th Bn. NDRF (Bathinda); Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO of the Shrine Board; Sh. Amit Vermani, Sh. Deepak Dubey and Dr. Jagdish Mehra, Dy. CEOs; Sh. Naresh Singh, Additional SP, Katra; Sh. Suresh Kumar Sharma, Director, Enforcement and Security, SMVDSB; Sh. Vinay Khajuria, Assistant Conservator of Forest, SMVDSB; officers and men of the NDRF, officers of the SDRF Reasi, Unit Heads of the Shrine Board and other stakeholders participated in the meeting.



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CEO Shrine Board reviewing various aspects of disaster management preparedness with Commandant, 7th Bn. NDRF at a meeting held at Katra

The meeting reviewed various components of Disaster Management Plan of the Shrine and the measures being taken to further strengthen it continuously. It also held extensive de-briefing session vis-à-vis the Mock Exercise that was conducted by the NDRF team on 27 March on the yatra track near the Bhawan area to evaluate the level of preparedness to most effectively and promptly respond to any emergency situation. J&K Police, CRPF, Fire and Emergency Services, Members of the Disaster Management Task Force of the Shrine Board, Medical Units, Unit Heads and employees of the Board took part in it.



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Disaster management preparedness mock drill being held in the Bhawan area

To further augment the Disaster Management preparedness, it was decided that the 7th Battalion of NDRF will conduct a comprehensive audit of the Disaster Management Stores set up by the Shrine Board at various locations on the track and in the Bhawan area so that, wherever required, these are further replenished by adding latest gadgets and equipments. An annual 'Calendar of Training' will be formulated where under the NDRF will impart advanced training to the Shrine Board staff, particularly Security and Enforcement Sahayaks, most of whom are ex-Servicemen. Besides, an Emergency Operation Centre will also be set up by the Shrine Board as part of its disaster management preparedness.



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17. Safaigiri Awards 2018

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

The award was received by Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, the then Chief Executive Officer of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board from Sh. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways in the presence of Sh. Aron Purie, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief, India Today Group.



Shrine Board CEO receiving 'Special Iconic Place' Award

The Shrine Board was recognised for such an award for second successive year. In the year 2017, Shrine Board received 'Special Swachh Iconic Place' award under the category of Swachh



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Iconic Places, under the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign of the Government of India, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. The Shrine Board besides making concerted efforts and promoting novel initiatives to ensure utmost hygiene for the visiting pilgrims, has been continuously striving to keep all its establishments and the entire Shrine area polythene free.



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18. Social Support Initiatives

Shrine Board in its endeavour to promote the interest of families living in the villages located in the close vicinity of the Shrine area has been carrying out various social and economic development activities for the past several years, which includes scholarships for meritorious students, financial assistance to girls for marriage, support to Self Help Group beneficiaries from Katra and nearby areas, medical insurance, and free health camps.

18.1 Promoting welfare of erstwhile Baridar families

As part of its various continuing programmes to promote the interests of the erstwhile Baridar families, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board released more than one crore rupees as scholarships to 1360 students belonging to the erstwhile Baridar families for the 2018-19 academic session. With this, the total amount paid by the Board as scholarships to students belonging to the erstwhile Baridar families from 2002-03 to 2018-19 crossed Rs. 5.29 crore, thereby benefiting 11305 students from this scheme of the Shrine Board.

Under the scholarship scheme of the Board, priority is given to promote the education of girls by providing them scholarships at a higher scale. The students studying in class 1st to the post-graduation level are provided scholarships ranging from Rs. 3,000/- to Rs. 18,000/- per annum. In the case of girls, the scholarship amount ranges from Rs. 4,200/- to Rs. 18,000/- per annum while in the case of boys, the amount ranges from Rs. 3,000/- to Rs. 14,400/- per annum, depending upon the class in which the student is enrolled.

Based on their class-wise internal merit, scholarships are given to the top 10 meritorious students studying in I-XII class in government schools. As a special concession, the Shrine Board pays scholarships to Undergraduate and Post-Graduate Degree course students of erstwhile Baridar families studying anywhere in the



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country, provided that the beneficiary student's family normally resides in the villages surrounding the Trikuta Hills.

It is pertinent to mention that during the academic session 2018-19 the Board released highest ever amount as scholarship component after hike in the rates of scholarship amount by the Chairman of Shrine Board (Governor, J&K).

On similar lines, the scale of financial assistance provided to the erstwhile Baridar families for celebrating the marriages of their daughters has been enhanced significantly. The basic financial assistance provided by the Board for the marriage of a daughter belonging to the erstwhile Baridar family has now been enhanced to Rs. 51,000/- from the existing scale of Rs. 31,000/-. In case the bride's father is not alive or both her parents are not alive, the financial assistance will now be Rs. 61,000/- and Rs. 75,000/- respectively, as against the current scales of Rs. 41,000/- and Rs. 51,000/-.

In the past 15 years since the inception of this scheme, over Rs. 3.68 crore has been paid in form of financial assistance and gifts for celebration of marriages of 1084 girls belonging to erstwhile Baridar families.

The Shrine Board has also launched an ambitious scheme to promote financial self-sufficiency and welfare of girl children of 19 identified remote villages of Bhomag area situated in the close vicinity of the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. The scheme titled 'Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Kanjak Samriddhi Yojana' aims at financial empowerment and economic self-reliance of the girl children belonging to the lower financial strata of the identified villages and was approved by the Board at its 62nd meeting held on 16 March 2018. Under this scheme, a subscription of Rs. 1000/- per month is provided by the Board in favour of the identified girl child between 0-5 years of age, for a period of 14 years. The Board will bear an



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expenditure of around Rs. 77 lakh per annum on this account. The amount in respect of each beneficiary will mature after 21 years from the date of opening of the account, after which each girl will get a lump sum amount of approximately Rs. 5.62 lakh that can be utilised for the educational and marriage purposes. However, a partial withdrawal upto 50% of the balance is also allowed after girl attains 18 years of age.

The beneficiaries have been identified from families having an annual income ceiling of Rs. 75,000/- and residing in the Bhomag area of Reasi district of which seven villages do not have road connectivity while three other villages are accessible only through fair weather roads. The initiative is targeted to ameliorate the lot of economically poor households residing in such remote areas.

18.2 Shrine Board's Medical Support Policy

During the Financial Year 2018-19, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board spent an amount of Rs. 909.58 lakh under its Medical Support Policy for providing Medical Support to various categories of patients. These categories include pilgrims, Shrine Board's employees and their dependents, students of the College of Nursing, Gurukul, villagers (of Kakryal, Sira, Kotla and Sool villages) and the Land Owners (whose land was acquired for the setting up of SMVDU and SMVDNSH) and to poor and needy patients in general (under Arogaya Yojna, a component of the Medical Support Policy of the Shrine Board). The Board made the expenditure as per the details given below:

S. No.	Category	OPD / IPD	FY/ 2018-19	
			(Apr 18- Mar19)	
			No.	Expenditure (Rs.in lakh)
1	Pilgrims	OPD/ IPD	301	125.41
2	Landowners	OPD	416	4.85



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3	Employees & their dependents	OPD	12,382	103.81
		IPD	2,195	527.86
4	Students of SMVDCoN	OPD	828	6.14
		IPD	05	0.82
5	Students of Gurukul	OPD	137	0.91
		IPD	5	1.68
6	Gratuitous Relief	OPD/ IPD	105	124.66
7	Special Accident Cases	IPD	35	13.44
Total:			16,409	909.58



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19. Events during the year

19.1 Shrine Board celebrates 33rd Foundation Day

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day on 30 August 2018. The historic day celebrations were marked by performing of Pooja, Havan, Yagya and organising of several other events at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Katra, Jammu and other locations in which the staff of the Shrine Board and a large number of pilgrims participated.



Havan being performed on the occasion of Shrine Board's Foundation Day at Katra

At the culmination of these functions, *Prasad* was distributed among the pilgrims by the senior most officers of the respective areas and units of the Shrine Board. Employees of the Shrine Board took pledge on this occasion to perform their duties with sincerity and devotion.

At Katra, the main function was held at Niharika Complex where special *Pooja* and *Havan* was performed. Sh. Anshul Garg, the then Additional Chief Executive Officer; and other officers and staff of the Shrine Board, besides a large number of pilgrims participated.



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The Shrine Board was established on 30 August 1986 and since then this day is being celebrated by the Board as 'Foundation Day' every year.

19.2 Annual Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, celebrated its 7th Annual Day by organising an impressive function at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra on 30 August 2018.

Prof. S. Sudarsana Sharma, former Vice-Chancellor, Shri Venkateswara Vedic University, Tirupati, was the Chief Guest on this occasion, while Prof. Y. K. Mishra, presided over the function. Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd), Member Shrine Board, was the Special Guest and Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, was the Guest of Honour.



The chief guest lighting the ceremonial lamp to mark Annual Day function of SMVD Gurukul at SGC, Katra

Prof. Sharma lauded the Shrine Board for establishing the Gurukul and putting in place excellent facilities for imparting quality education in Sanskrit and other subjects for all-round development of the students pursuing their education in this institution. He advised the students to



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work hard and make best use of the facilities provided by the Board. He congratulated the management, teachers, staff and students of the Gurukul for the academic and co-curricular excellence achieved by the students. He also gave away prizes and certificates to the meritorious students on the occasion.

Prof. Mishra and Prof. Vishwamurty Shastri threw light on the growth of the Gurukul during the past eight years and congratulated the students for their outstanding performance in academics and extra-curricular activities, respectively.

Dr. M. K. Kumar, the then Additional CEO of the Shrine Board presented welcome address while Sh. Anshul Garg, Additional CEO, SMVDSB; presented mementos to Prof. Sharma, Prof. Mishra, Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd) and Prof. Vishwamurty Shastri on this occasion. Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. CEO, SMVDSB and Administrator of the Gurukul, presented a Vote of Thanks.

Dr. Devendra Rijal, Vice Principal of the Gurukul, presented Annual Report of the institution giving details of the achievements registered in academics and extra-curricular activities during the past one year.

On this occasion, the students of the Gurukul staged an impressive Sanskrit play, "Pranahuti" and a skit in Hindi "Sab Kuchh Sadak Par", which were highly appreciated by the audience.

19.3 Annual day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing

The Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony of the 3rd Batch of B. Sc. Nursing students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, and the Annual Day function of this institution was held at the Auditorium of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, on 30 November 2018.

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



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Dr. Ashok Bhan and Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Members of the Shrine Board; Prof. Sanjeev Jain, the then Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University; and Sh. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to the Governor; were present on the occasion. Earlier, on arrival at University Helipad from Jammu, the Governor was received by Sh. B. B. Vyas, the then Member Shrine Board and Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, among others.



Governor, Sh. Satya Pal Malik and other dignitaries witnessing a cultural programme presented by the students of SMVD College of Nursing, Kakryal on its Annual Day.

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

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

In his welcome address, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Member of the Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of



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the SMVDCoN, gave details of the achievements of the College in academics and extra-curricular activities during the past one year.

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

19.4 2nd anniversary of SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal, organised a function on 25 April 2018 in connection with celebration of its 2nd Anniversary. Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty, Founder and Chairman, Narayana Health, was the Guest of Honour at this function, which was held at the Matrika Auditorium of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.



Sh. N. N. Vohra, the then Governor presenting Life Time Achievement Award to a medico on 2nd Anniversary function of SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal



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The then Governor, Sh. N. N. Vohra spoke about the growth story of the hospital and observed that it has done quite well during the past two years and is envisaged to do much better during 2018-19.

Governor and Dr. Shetty felicitated three eminent doctors of Jammu and Kashmir with Life Time Achievement Awards for their outstanding and distinguished services in the field of Medicine. Those honoured were Dr. N. S. Pathania, former Principal Government Medical College Jammu and Director General of Health Services and Medical Education; Dr. Girija Dhar, renowned Gynaecologist and former Principal of Government Medical College Srinagar; and Dr. Smanla T. Phuntsog, Post Graduate in Ophthalmology and qualified Physician in the Tibetan System of Medicine. Dr. Pathania's Award was received by his daughter-in law, Smt. Rekha Pathania.

Dr. Shetty complimented the Governor and the Shrine Board for establishing this excellent hospital equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment facilities.

The function among others was attended by several Board Members; Principal Secretary to the Governor and the then CEO of the Shrine Board; Members of the Governing Body and Finance and Audit Committee of the Hospital.

To mark the completion of two years of functioning of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal, a PET CT facility was launched at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal on 25 April 2018.

The then Governor and Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sh. N. N. Vohra, inaugurated the PET CT facility at this tertiary care hospital in the presence of Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty, Founder and Chairman of Narayana Health; Dr. S. S. Bloeria and Sh. B. B. Vyas, the then Board Members; and Sh. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to the Governor and CEO of the Shrine Board.



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Governor, Sh. N. N. Vohra inaugurating PET CT facility at SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal

The Governor and Dr. Shetty viewed the PET CT facility and interacted with the doctors about its functioning. The PET CT facility, which is not available elsewhere in the Jammu region, has been immensely helping in the detection of cancer and other serious ailments. The introduction of this facility has enabled the delivery of the entire range of cancer related services at the SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal which provides affordable health care.

19.5 Shat Chandi Maha Yagya during Navratras

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya was organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji in October 2018 during the Navratras. The MahaYagya, which commenced on the auspicious occasion of beginning of the Navratras on 10 October amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and performance of other religious ceremonies for peace and prosperity, concluded with *Purna Ahuti* on Mahanavami on 18 October 2018.



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CEO Shrine Board participating in *Purna Ahuti* on the conclusion of Shat Chandi Maha Yagya at the Holy Cave Shrine on Mahanavami

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

As in the past, the Bhawan, Atka and the area surrounding it were elegantly decorated with flowers brought from various parts of the country and abroad. The Board also made elaborate arrangements for the sanitation, security, drinking water, special 'fast related' food and uninterrupted power supply all along the track and in the Bhawan area.



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20. Shrine Board takes significant decisions for facilitation of pilgrims

During the year two meetings of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (63rd and 64th) were held under the chairmanship of Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman of the Shrine Board on 13 October 2018 and 15 March 2019, respectively which took a number of significant decisions for facilitation of the pilgrims. At the 63rd meeting of the Board important decisions taken, inter alia, included further augmenting and upgrading of the medical facilities for the pilgrims enroute Katra to Bhawan. The Board decided to establish a new fully equipped and staffed Medical Unit at Lambi Keri to cater to the medical exigencies in the Adhkuwari-Sanjichhat sector taking the total number of Medical Units to 8 on all the tracks. The Board also decided to create a new Medical Unit at Bhairon Temple at an estimated cost of rupees one crore keeping in view the futuristic requirements. The Board also decided to procure two more fully equipped Critical Care Ambulances for emergency evacuation of critical patients to the CHC Katra or the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal for treatment. Besides, heli-evacuation of critical cardiac and other seriously ailing patients from Sanjichhat and Panchhi Helipads to the Helipad at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for specialised medical care at the Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal quickly on the Board's expenses was also approved.

Besides, the Board approved a Medical Support Policy for the treatment of victims of public trauma under its social support initiative at the Superspeciality Hospital. The beneficiaries in this policy include public trauma victims of road accidents, landslides or shooting stone incidents and such calamities from the surrounding areas of the Shrine referred to the hospital by the concerned Deputy Commissioners to provide emergency medical aid. Medical assistance is provided in all



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such cases by the Shrine Board till the stabilisation of the patient upto a ceiling of Rs. 2 lakh as a goodwill gesture for such critical cases.

The Board also approved enhancement of Group Accidental Insurance cover for the pilgrims. The accidental cover extended to each pilgrim free of cost was enhanced from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 5 from lakh for the pilgrims aged 5 years and above and Rs. 3 lakh for the pilgrims below 5 years of age up from the existing Rs. 1 lakh. The Board also approved additional life insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh to the pilgrims who avail the service of the Passenger Ropeway between Bhawan and Bhairon Ghati. This cover is in addition to the accidental cover available to each yatri once he / she collects the yatra slip and commences the journey.

The Board approved installation of a hi-tech Multipurpose Audio System on Tarakote Marg from Katra to Adhkuwari to play devotional music and spiritual songs comprising "Chants", "Mantras", "Stotras", Bhaints, besides ensuring reliable and real time dissemination of informative advisories and announcements.

The Board also approved a scheme for institutionalising fellowships for the top 5 meritorious students of Shastri classes of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul for pursuing Acharya or equivalent Post-Graduation Course in Sanskrit, Jyotish, Darshan and Ved streams in the leading institutions of the country. The merit fellowships will be provided to the students for a period of 2 years based on their academic performance during three years of the Shastri Course. The amount of fellowship to be provided by the Shrine Board will be Rs. 48,000/- per annum to the meritorious scholar.

The 63rd Board meeting was attended by Dr. S. S. Bloeria, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Sh. H. L. Maini, Sh. Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma and Sh. B. B. Vyas, all Board Members; and Sh. B V R Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to the Governor, Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, the



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then Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then designate Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, Dr. M. K. Kumar and Sh. Anshul Garg, the then Additional Chief Executive Officers.

At the 64th meeting the Board approved installation of CCTV Surveillance System on the entire track from Darshani Deodi to Bhawan, which besides helping in monitoring the movement of the pilgrims and strengthening overall security measures, will also be of immense support in case of any emergent situations to provide real time assistance to the Shrine Board and local administration; installation of stand-alone STPs for the Toilet Blocks on the yatra route at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.65 crore in a phased manner.

This meeting was attended by H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Sh. K. B. Kachru, Sh. K. K. Sharma, Sh. Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma and Sh. Vijay Dhar, all Board Members; Sh. B V R Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to the Governor; Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional Chief Executive Officer; Sh. M. M. Gupta, Chief Engineer of the Board; and Dr. (Brig) M. M. Harjai, Chief Administrative Officer, SMVDNSH, Kakryal.



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21. Shrine Board adopts latest technologies for converting mule dung into quality manure at Natali project.

Conservation of environment and ecology has been very high on agenda of the Shrine Board and in furtherance of this objective various measures have been taken from time to time and latest technologies adopted for creation and upgradation of sanitation infrastructure, collection and segregation of waste at source and bringing it to the identified sites for its eco-friendly disposal.



Waste segregation machine installed at Equid Dung Management Centre at Natali

In consonance with this, the Board has established a 4-ton per day capacity biogas plant at Banganga for scientific disposal of mule dung generated on the track enroute Bhawan. The biogas produced at this plant is supplied to the Gulshan Langar at Banganga. Besides, a composting project was also set up at solid waste management site at Tarakote on trial basis where mule dung was processed and converted into manure through pit composting technology. Upon successful results and to carry forward this initiative at a greater pace and on much larger scale, a full-fledged



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project viz Equid Dung Management Centre has been established by the Shrine Board at Natali near Katra where scientific treatment of mule dung is being done both through aerobic and anaerobic methods.



A view of Equid Dung Management Centre at Natali

Since the manure generated through pit and bed methodology has very good capacity of holding moisture for longer duration, it is being used for various greening works in the Shrine area and besides supplying to the local farmers for boosting organic farming. The mule dung generated on the track is collected, segregated at source and brought to the mule dung composting site at Natali on daily basis for its treatment. For regular composting of mule dung, many new initiatives have been taken at Natali project which include erection of sheds in bed composting area for saving the compost beds from weather vagaries, fencing of the entire composting project area by using scrap material and planting of 6500 trees of forest species. The compost generated is also being used for growing seedlings and plants. Local seeds which are suitable for this region are also being propagated. An eco-friendly kitchen garden has also been established at Natali where different vegetables are being grown.



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22. Allied Institutions

While making continuing endeavours for enlarging infrastructural and other facilities for the facilitation of the visiting pilgrims, the Shrine Board has been taking initiatives for transforming socio-economic development profile of Katra, the base town for the pilgrimage, its surrounding areas and the society at large. The thrust areas under this initiative, interalia, include the sectors of education, health care and sports. In furtherance of this objective, the Shrine Board has established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital and Shrine Board's Sports Complex. These institutions are serving the society with distinction and have made a mark in their respective spheres.

22.1 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, established by the Shrine Board in 2004, is an autonomous, highly technical and fully residential university. It has witnessed a remarkable growth over the past 15 years. The varsity spread on a sprawling and picturesque campus in the backdrop of Trikuta Hills at Kakryal, near Katra, has come up in a big way both in the spheres of teaching and research. It has been equipped with hi-tech labs, hostels and other buildings to provide the best possible facilities of teaching and research to the students who seek admission in this university from across the country. The academic system, syllabi and evaluation procedure has been adopted from the Indian Institute of Technology which promotes vigorous learning and transparent evaluation mechanism. The highly qualified faculty members from various parts of the country serving in this



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university are guiding the students towards higher learning and research with focus on building highly qualified manpower with abundance of integrity and humaneness. The students passing out from the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University are serving the society and the world at large with distinction. The university is fast developing as a centre of excellence which is evident from the constant improvement in its ranking from 94th in 2018 to 85th rank among the engineering and management institutions in NIRF this year.



Auditorium of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University

22.2 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul

The Shrine Board has also established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul at Charan Paduka near Katra in 2010 to provide quality modern education at this Gurukul along with Vedic and Sanskrit education. This initiative has been taken in furtherance of the duty of the Board to make arrangements for imparting of religious instructions and general education. The Gurukul has also been upgraded to provide education upto Shastri level from



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the 2017-18 academic session for which Gurukul Phase-II has been constructed.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul Complex

Presently, 162 students are studying in classes 6th to Shastri Part-II in the fully residential Gurukul, which is affiliated with the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, a leading Sanskrit University in the country. All the students are provided education, boarding, lodging, uniforms, books and other required facilities at the cost of the Board. Given the excellent infrastructural and other allied facilities provided by the Shrine Board to impart top quality education to the Gurukul students, they are bringing laurels in both academics and co-curricular activities year after year by their excellent performance.

Besides, the Gurukul also organizes refresher courses to sharpen skills of Pandits/Pujaris from the region and those serving in the Shrine Board.



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22.3 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing

Continuing with its another initiative in the field of education, the Shrine Board established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN) at Kakryal which started functioning from July 2016. The objective of setting up the College of Nursing is to provide quality nursing education of highest standard to the students so that after passing out from this institution they serve the humanity with utmost commitment and distinction. The establishment of the Nursing College is yet another testimony of the Shrine Board towards its contribution to the society. The College of Nursing is approved by the Indian Nursing Council and J&K Nursing Council and 60 students are admitted to this institution every year. The SMVDCoN is affiliated to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. Besides having a highly qualified faculty, the institution is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure.



The upcoming buildings of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing

Arrangements are being worked out for providing internship training to the students at the leading health institutions in the



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country besides a placement cell has also been set up in the College so that the students passing out from this institution get better job opportunities. The first batch of the students of the SMVDCoN will pass out in 2020.

22.4 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital set up by the Shrine Board at Kakryal near Katra caters to the patients across more than 20 different specialities with focus on cardiac sciences and oncology. This 230-bedded tertiary care hospital, which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in April 2016, is equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment facilities and provides highly specialised and quality medical care at affordable cost.



A view of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

The hospital, fully equipped with high-end computerised diagnostic and treatment equipments including Linear Accelerator, Brachy Therapy, Gamma Camera, MRI, PET CT, CT Scan, Cath Lab, Endoscopy and Bronchotherapy, most modern Dialysis Unit and other related facilities, has well equipped Critical Care Ambulances and superspecialist doctors



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and highly trained nurses, paramedics and other staff. The establishment of this Superspeciality Hospital has completely transformed the medical care scenario in the area with people from within and outside Jammu and Kashmir taking benefit of this facility.

22.5 Shrine Board's Sports Complex

The Shrine Board's Sports Complex which was established in 2016 at Katra has become a nerve centre of sports activities and transformed the entire scenario of games and sports in the area. The sports persons trained and groomed at this Sports Complex are winning medals at various national and international level competitions. Regular sports events are organised at this Complex as per approved annual calendar of activities, including several major sports events and summer and winter coaching camps, which is contributing significantly towards giving a major boost to the sports culture in the region. This Sports Complex was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in April 2016.





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Apart from the focus disciplines of archery, shooting, athletics and basketball for which the state-of-the-art equipment has been provided by the Board, other sports and games are also being promoted in a big way at the Sports Complex. More than 100 sports persons from Katra and the surrounding areas are regularly participating in the coaching camps organised at the Sports Complex in the prioritised as well as other disciplines.



Dignitaries with the players at Shrine Board's Sports Complex



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And the efforts continue.....

The Shrine Board's management is committed to serve the visiting pilgrims in the best possible way and in this endeavour, enormous efforts are being made to upgrade the pilgrim-centred facilities such as augmentation of water supply, medical facilities, catering facilities, construction and maintenance works, hygiene and sanitation, online bookings and much more. These initiatives/ efforts shall continue to be at the core of Shrine Board's activities in the future as well. Further, to augment and streamline pilgrim amenities in the Bhawan area, a comprehensive Master Plan for Bhawan and the Extended Shrine Area has been formulated to serve as a guideline for streamlined and planned developmental activities as per emerging requirements in future.

Jai Mata Di !





