

जय माता दी



**Administrative Report  
2019-20**



**SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD**









## Administrative Report 2019-20

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### 1. Introduction

Nestled in the Trikuta Hills in Reasi District of Jammu and Kashmir, the world famed Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji is a pilgrimage where pilgrims from across the country and beyond have been paying obeisance since centuries past. Prior to the establishment of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in 1986, the pilgrimage to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, was managed by the Dharmarth Trust and 'Baridars'. Although the number of pilgrims visiting the Shrine and the volume of donations were progressively increasing over the years, there was no corresponding perceptible improvement in facilities for the visiting yatris. This called for major initiatives to overhaul the administration and management of the Shrine alongwith formulating and timeline implementation of plans for infrastructural development and pilgrim-centric facilities and putting in place logistical arrangements to meet the immediate and long-term goals of catering to the steadily rising number of pilgrims.

Accordingly, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was formed in 1986 under the Jammu & Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Ordinance 1986, issued by the then Governor, which was later approved by the J&K Legislature by passing Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act in the year 1988. Since then, all round development has been witnessed in this geographically challenging terrain. The Shrine Board has taken one after the other path breaking initiatives and put in enormous human and material resources in developing the best and the most modern facilities for the pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine so that the pilgrimage to this one of the most revered Shrine becomes a memorable and pleasant experience for the yatris, alongwith seeking spiritual bliss. In continuing these initiatives, the Shrine Board has launched several infrastructure development projects and put on ground arrangements in sync with meeting the present and the emerging requirements of the pilgrimage which have brought laudable



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results, in terms of yatra turnout which crossed the ten million mark twice in 2011 and 2012.

The continuing efforts of the Shrine Board have been not only promoting pilgrim tourism in J&K but also contributing meaningfully towards the growth of economic activities and creation of employment avenues. With these efforts and blessings of the Mother Goddess the Shrine is today regarded as one of the best managed Shrine in the country for which the Board has received many awards. In recognition of these initiatives of the Board, the CNBC Awaaz, a Hindi Business News Channel, has awarded the Shrine Board in the category of 'Best Managed Religious Destination Award' for 2011, 2013 and 2015. And more recently, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine has won recognition on national level in 2017, 2018 and 2019 for being one of the 'Best Swachh Iconic' places under the category of Swachh Iconic Places, an initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission launched by the Government of India. The awards have been given in recognition of the Shrine Board's excellent initiatives for ensuring sanitation and cleanliness all along the tracks and in the entire Shrine area.

The whole of the Shrine area has witnessed all round improvement in pilgrim facilities like construction of comfortable tracks, staircases, excellently maintained hygienic toilets, catering units, cloak rooms, blanket stores, accommodation units, water supply, landscaping, medical facilities, disaster resistant shelter sheds etc. The slope 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. 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 has also been commissioned on the Tarakote Marg between Katra and Adhkuwari. The complete track from Katra to Bhawan has been adequately lit with LED





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lights presenting a spectacular view of the Bhawan and the entire Shrine area during nights. The rudimentary drinking water facility and earthen pitchers that existed prior to the establishment of the Shrine Board have been replaced with a large number of potable drinking water points and water coolers to ensure safe and round the clock drinking water supply all along the track. Besides, water ATMs have also been installed at several points to provide free of cost ultra filtered drinking water to the yatris. With regard to healthcare, adequate arrangements have 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 specialised treatment at CHC Katra and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal.

Sanitation has been accorded very high focus by the Shrine Board and adequate sanitation staff has been deployed 24x7 to keep the track, establishments and the entire Shrine area most neat and clean. For the purpose, latest eco-friendly green technologies have been adopted to achieve the desired results. The tin-shed housed toilets that existed prior to 1986 have been replaced with most modern Toilet Blocks and waterless urinals on the track, in 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 also 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.

Further, despite geographically tough 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. The Bhawan-Bhairon Ghati



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Passenger Ropeway has largely facilitated the pilgrims, particularly senior citizens and pilgrims with health issues who are now very comfortably visiting Bhairon Ji Temple. A comprehensive Master Plan for Bhawan and the Extended Shrine Area has also been formulated and is being implemented in a phased manner, which will in a big way further add to the existing facilities for the pilgrims.

### 2. 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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### 3. Constitution of the Board as on 31-03-2020

**CHAIRMAN:** Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, Lieutenant Governor, J&K (October 2019- )

**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.

**Shri K. B. Kachru**

Shri 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 Satya Pal Malik, Governor, J&K (August 2018- October 2019).



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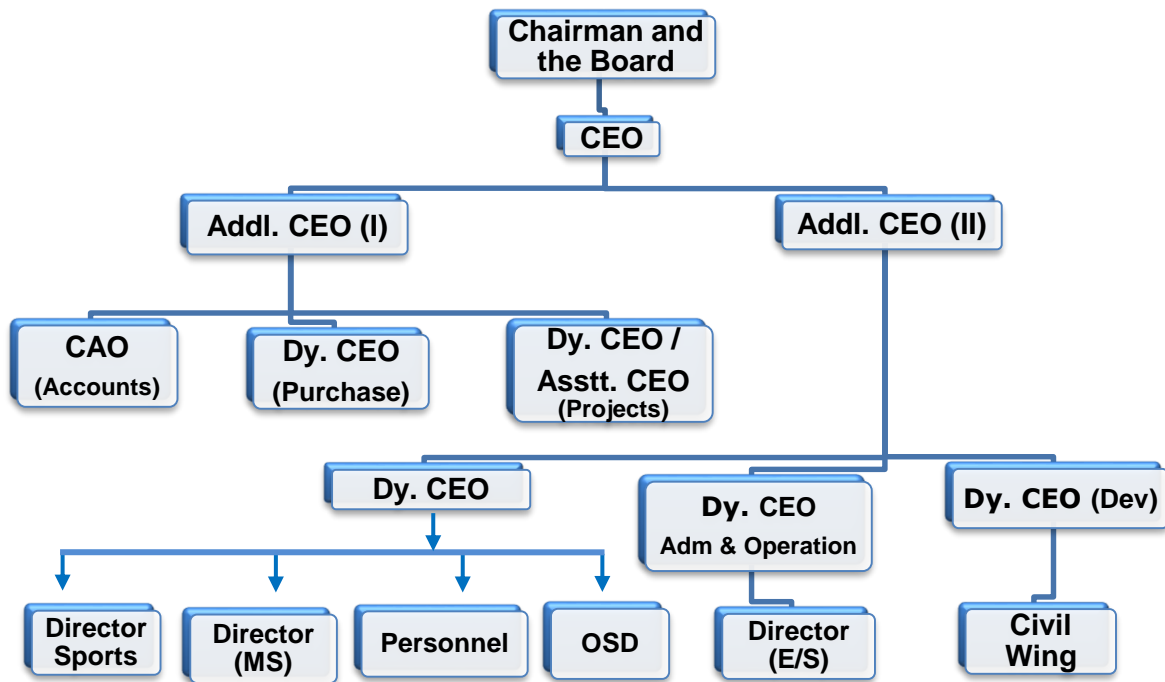
### Officers of the Board as on 31-03-2020

- Shri Simrandeep Singh, IAS, Chief Executive Officer (15 October 2018 - 6 December 2019).
- Shri Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Chief Executive Officer (6 December 2019- ).
- Shri Vivek Verma, IFS, Additional Chief Executive Officer (12 November 2018 - ).
- Shri Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer (21 December 2015 - ).
- Dr. Sunil Sharma, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (18 January 2020- ).
- Shri Jagdish Chander, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (22 February 2019 - ).
- Dr. Arvind Karwani, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (21 December 2015 - 18 January 2020).
- Shri Amit Vermani, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (6 April 2015 - 18 January 2020).
- Shri Deepak Dubey, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (3 July 2017 - ).
- Shri Manu Hansa, Assistant Chief Executive Officer (1 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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### 4. Yatra during the period

- 4.1 During the calendar year 2019, a total of 79,40,064 pilgrims visited the Shrine as against 85,86,541 yatris who paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum in 2018.

#### **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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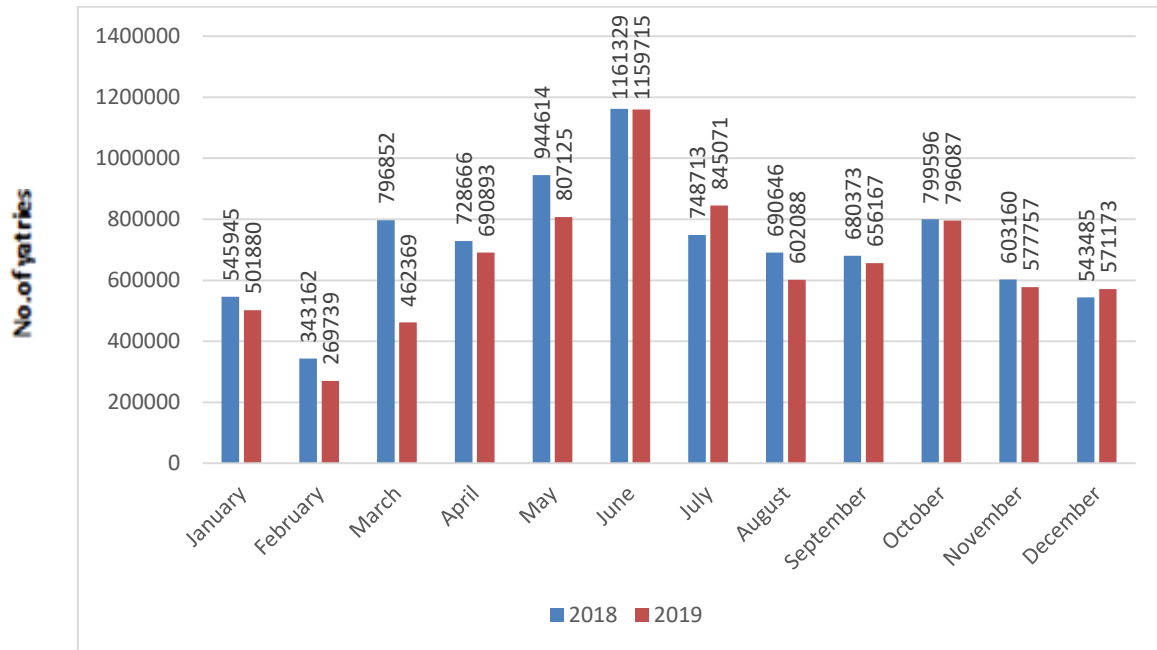
25	2010	87,49,326
26	2011	1,01,15,647
27	2012	1,04,95,269
28	2013	93,23,647
29	2014	78,03,193
30	2015	77,76,604
31	2016	77,23,721
32	2017	81,78,318
33	2018	85,86,541
34	2019	79,40,064

### Month Wise Yatra comparison 2018 v/s 2019

Month	2018 No. of Yatris	2019 No. of Yatris
January	545945	501880
February	343162	269739
March	796852	462369
April	728666	690893
May	944614	807125
June	1161329	1159715
July	748713	845071
August	690646	602088
September	680373	656167
October	799596	796087
November	603160	577757
December	543485	571173
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,86,541</b>	<b>79,40,064</b>



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The largest number of pilgrims who visited the Shrine was during June, 2019. The months of April, May and June are the peak season of the pilgrimage while the lean period is during November to February.

### 4.2 Helicopter Services

The one-way passenger fare for heli-travel between Katra and Sanjichhat during 2019-20 was 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





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preference is generally given to senior citizens and specially-abled pilgrims. A total of 4,85,696 yatris availed this service in the year 2019-20.



Sanjichhat Helipad

### 4.3 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. During 2019-20, the charges per passenger for 30 minute journey from Adhkuwari to Bhawan and from Bhawan to Adhkuwari were 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 Manokamana Bhawan. A total of 7,33,583 pilgrims used this facility in the year 2019-20.



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Battery Operated Vehicles

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



Ponies



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### 4.5 Palanquins

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



Palanquins

The rates for Ponies, Pithoos and Palkis 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

### 4.6 Special arrangements during Navratras

The most auspicious periods of Navratras, both in April and September-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



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



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

One of the special features of the September-October Navratras was that the newly gold plated entrance of the traditional Holy Cave of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine was formally dedicated to the yatris for darshans at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, amidst chanting of Vedic mantras and performing of other rituals and religious ceremonies on the occasion of third Navratra. This prestigious project of the Shrine Board was completed in less than three months by an expert and creative team of artisans from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh who are credited with having undertaken similar works at various temples and shrines in the country in the past.



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The pilgrims appreciated the arrangements, particularly the magnificent view of the newly gold-plated entrance of the traditional Holy Cave and spectacular flower decoration of the Bhawan, Atka and the area surrounding it. Besides, *bhajan* and *bhaint* performances by the renowned artistes, including Sh. Hansraj Hans, Sh. Gurdas Maan, Sh. Sonu Nigam, Ms. Anuradha Paudwal, Ms. Jaspinder Narula, Ms. Kavita Paudwal, Sh. Lakhbir Singh Lakha, Sh. Lakhwinder Wadali, Sh. Pankaj Dhawan, Sh. Kumar Vishav, Sh. Swami Budhiraja, Sh. Harbans Lal Bansi, Sh. Jyoti Prakash and Sh. Mohit Chopra, were other highlights of these Navratras.

As in the past, Shat Chandi Maha Yagya was organised by the Shrine Board at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine during the Navratras which commenced on 25 March 2020 for peace, prosperity and health of humanity, and concluded with *Purna Ahuti* on Ramanavami.

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

It is pertinent to mention that in view of the prevailing situation due to coronavirus, the yatra to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji was suspended w.e.f. 18 March 2020. However, *Pooja*, *Aarti* and all other rituals were performed at the Holy Cave Shrine as usual.

### 4.7 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 made during the winter months in the queue line from Gate No. 3 upto the Holy Cave.



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### 4.8 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 2019-20, as many as 1,07,243 pilgrims had darshan through the natural Cave.



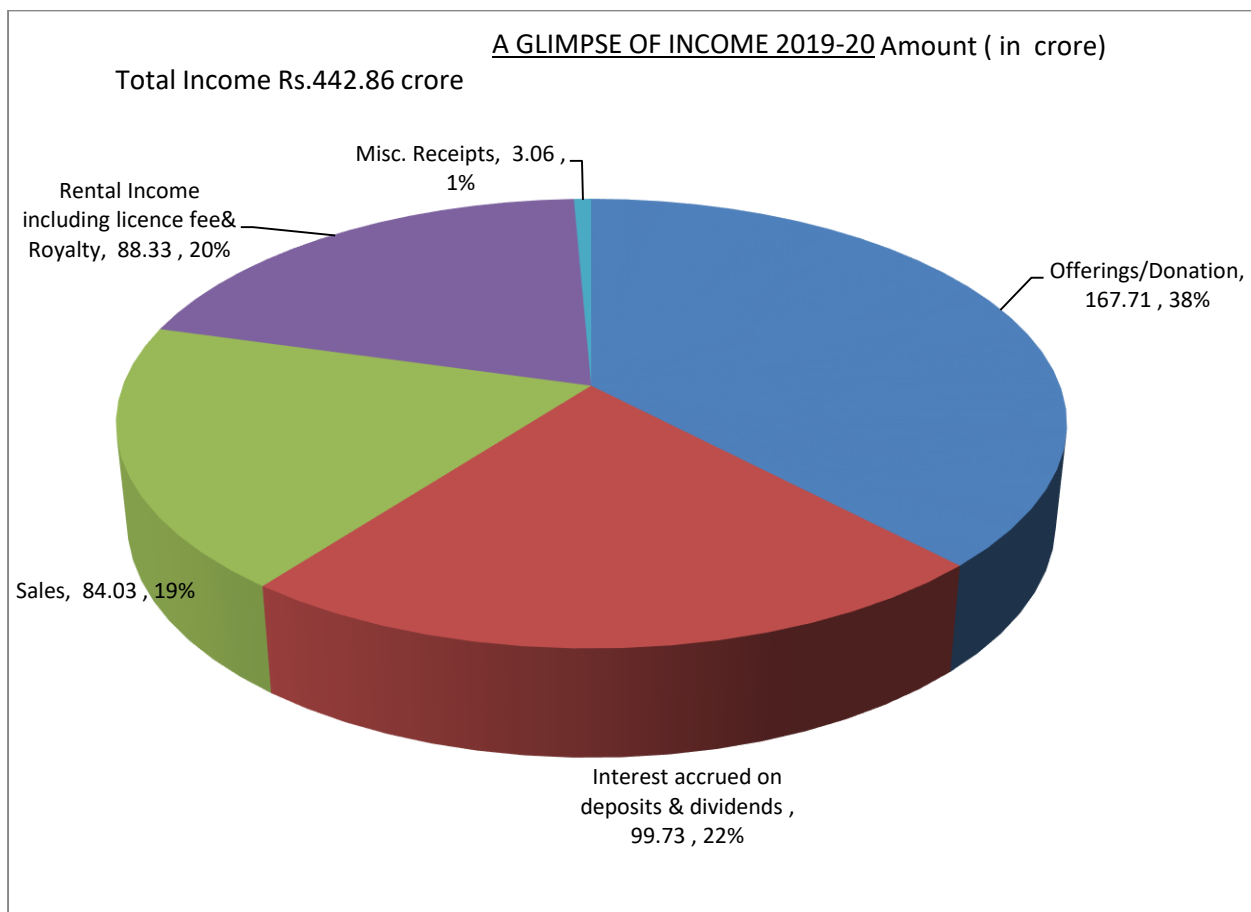
Pilgrims having darshan via the natural Cave.



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### 5. Income and Expenditure

Income during FY 2019-20		
S.No.	Items	Amount Rs. (In crore)
1	Offerings/Donation	167.71
2	Interest accrued on deposits & dividends	99.73
3	Sales	84.03
4	Rental Income including Licence Fee & Royalty	88.33
5	Misc. Receipts	3.06
	<b>Total</b>	<b>442.86</b>

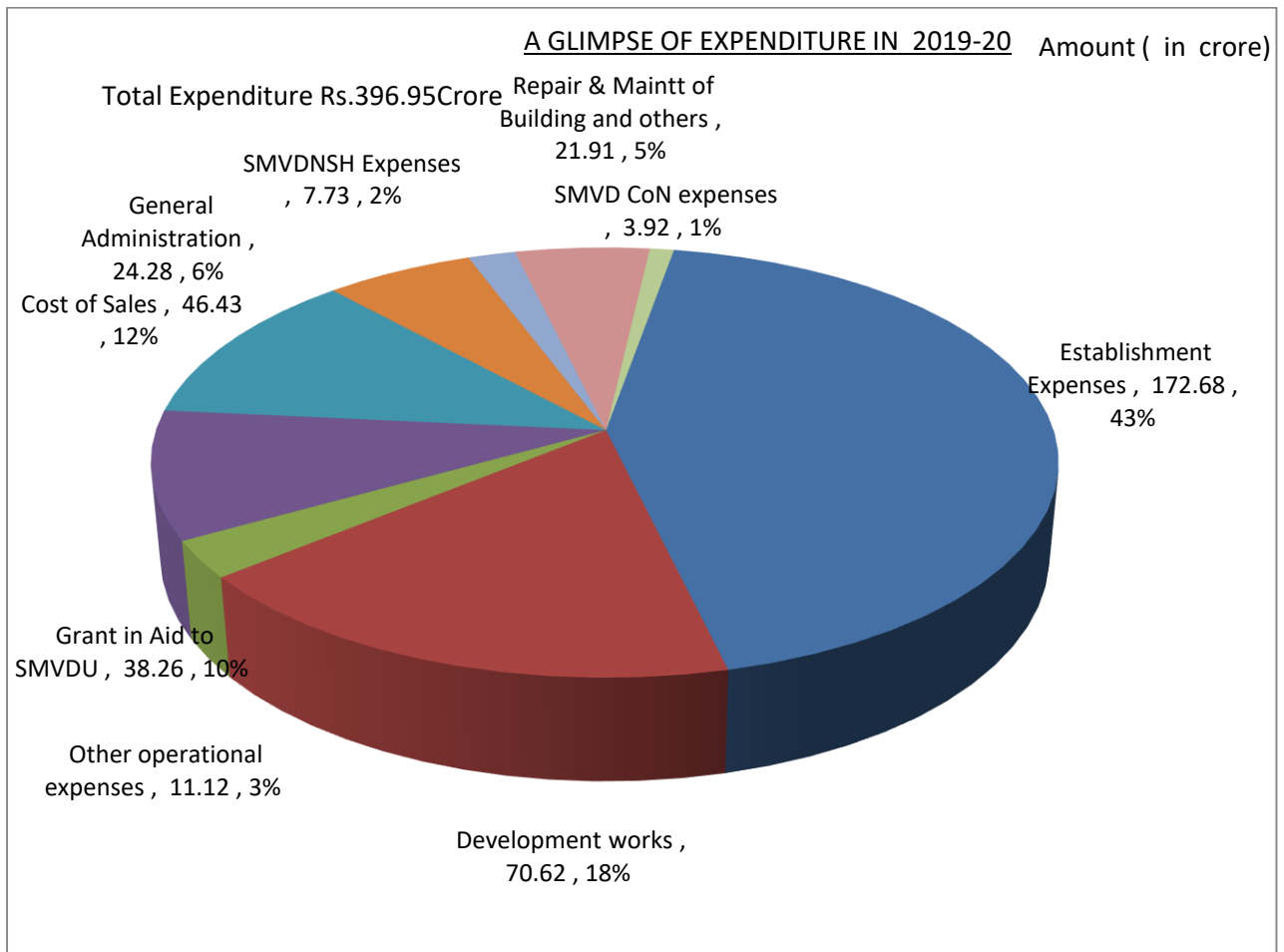


**Note: The figures shown in the pie chart are Pre-Audited and are subject to change after finalisation of Audit for the F.Y. 2019-20**



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Expenditure during FY 2019-20		
S.No .	Items	Amount ( In crore )
1	Establishment Expenses	172.68
2	Development works	70.62
3	<i>Other operational expenses</i>	11.12
4	<i>Grant in Aid to SMVDU</i>	38.26
5	Cost of sales(Operational expenses)	46.43
6	General Administration	24.28
7	<i>SMVDNSH Expenses</i>	7.73
8	<i>Repair &amp; Maintt of Building and others</i>	21.91
9	SMVDCoN Expenses	3.92
	<b>Total</b>	<b>396.95</b>



**Note: The figures shown in the pie chart are Pre-Audited and are subject to change after finalisation of Audit for the F. Y. 2019-20**





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### 6. Audit Report

The Statutory Audit of the Shrine Board's Accounts for the FY 2018-19 has been conducted by M/s S.R. Batliboi and Associate. The Statutory Audit for FY 2019-20 is likely to be started in the month of October 2020 and is expected to be completed in the month of December 2020.



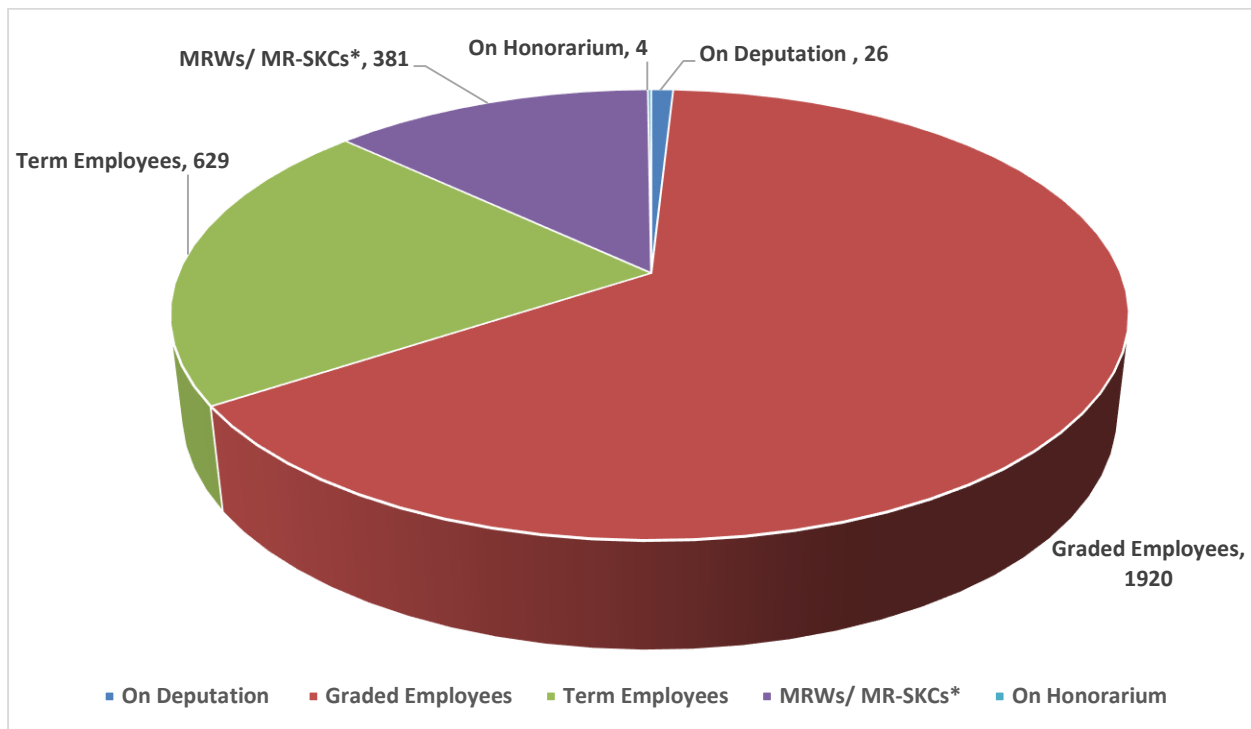
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### 7. Human Resource Management

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

- **Strength as on 31.03.2020**

Type of Employment	Manpower Strength
On Deputation	26
Graded Employees	1920
Term Employees	629
MRWs/ MR-SKCs*	381
On Honorarium	04
<b>Total</b>	<b>2960</b>

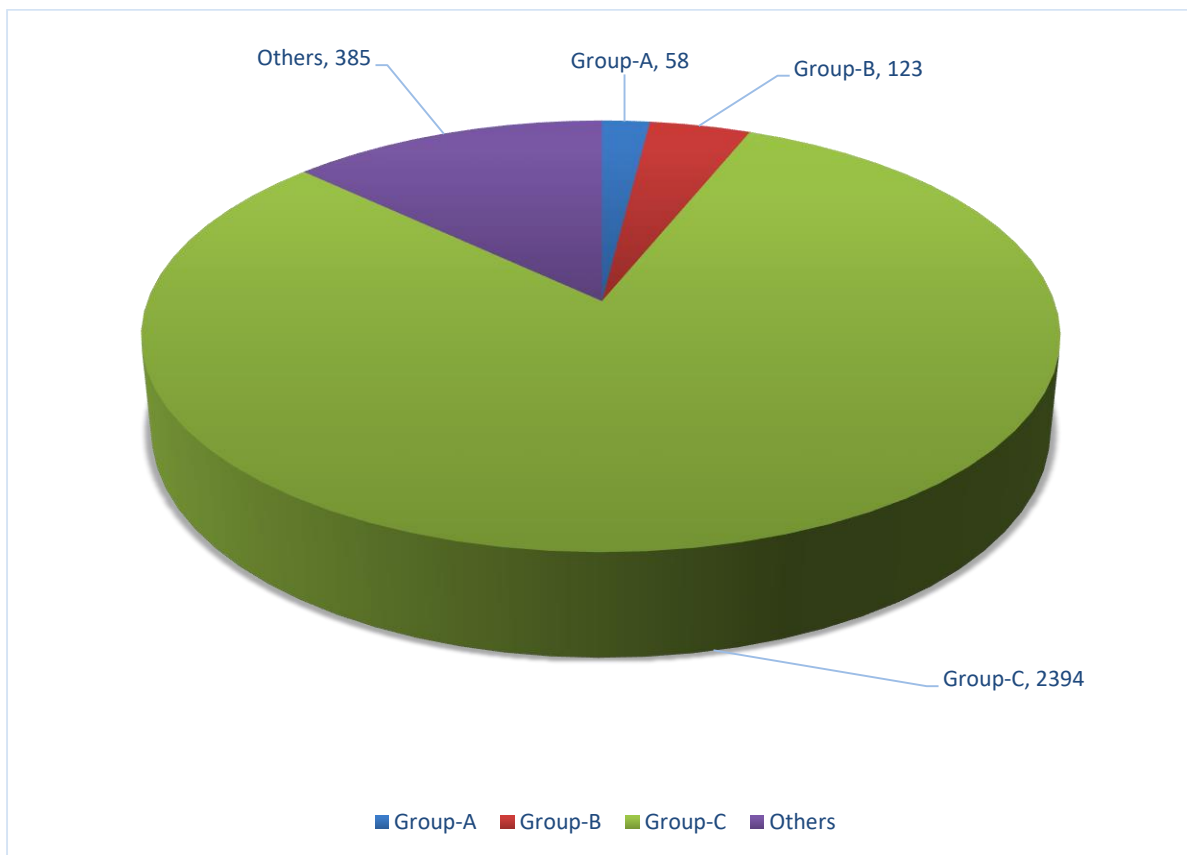


\* Muster Roll Workers/Muster Roll Safaikaramcharis



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Group wise Manpower Strength	
Group-A	58
Group-B	123
Group-C	2394
Others	385
<b>Total</b>	<b>2960</b>



- During April 2019 to March 2020, 21 employees joined the Board under various categories as under:

On Deputation : 10

On Term Employment : 11



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- During Financial Year 2019-20, 70 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	3	0	1	0	04
2	On Superannuation	2	4	34	0	40
3	On Resignation	1	4	8	0	13
4	Death	0	0	5	0	5
5	Other Reasons	3	0	2	3	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>70</b>

### 7.2 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 56<sup>th</sup> 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 had 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 and agencies such as National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Gujarat, Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad, Art of Living, Skywalk Solutions, for imparting quality training programmes in their respective domains.



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Shrine Board staff participating in Art of Living programme.

A total of 96 trainings were organized during the period - 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2020, covering different categories of employees. Besides capacity building programmes, workshops, seminars, conferences benefiting 3041 participants 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 APRs of employees. The training programmes envisage three sets of trainings:

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

### 7.3 Training Programmes conducted during 2019-20

April 2019 to March 2020				
S.NO.	NAME OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME	TRAINING INSTITUTE/ FACULTY	LOCATION/ VENUE	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
1	Orientation-cum-Training Programme for newly recruited Medical Officers of Shrine Board	Inhouse Faculty (Dir. MS / Dr. Neeraj, Dr. Harbhajan & Dr. Mamta)	SGC , SMVDNSH & Various track locations	5
2	Training Programme on Management Competencies	IIPA, Jammu	IIPA Jammu	3
3	Training -cum-Orientation Programme for the Shrine Board employees	Sr. Mgr Catering & Dr. Saurabh Srivastava,	SGC, Katra	24
4	Management Development Programme on Efficient Decision Making: Processes & Practices	Dr. Supran Kumar Sharma, Associate Professor, SMVDU	SMVDU, Kakryal	3
5	Training Programme on Disaster Management for the employees of SMVDSB	NDRF, Bathinda, Punjab	NDRF, Bathinda, Punjab	25
6	Training Programme on Basic Life Support	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO, MU Tarakote	SGC, Katra	40
7	Training Programme on Stress Management	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	5
8	Training Programme on Noting and Drafting	Inhouse Faculty - Sh. Tarseem / Sh. Gurbachan / Sh. Naresh Bharti	SGC, Katra	30
9	Training Programme on Female Health & Wellness	Inhouse Medical Officer - Dr. Mamta Sharma	SGC, Katra	30
10	Training Programme on Team Building	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	5



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11	Training Programme on Basic Life Support	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO, MU Tarakote	SGC, Katra	40
12	Workshop on Goods & Services Tax	ISTM, New Delhi	ISTM, New Delhi	5
13	Programme on Ageing with Dignity	District Legal Services Authority, Reasi	Sports Complex Katra	60
14	Training with regard to GST Compliance, Invoices / bills required to be issued at various sale outlets of Shrine Board	In-house by Chief Accounts Officer	Conference Hall, Central Office, Katra	28
15	Training Programme on Noting and Drafting	Inhouse Faculty - Sh. Tarseem / Sh. Gurbachan / Sh. Naresh Bharti	SGC, Katra	30
16	Training Programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO, MU Tarakote & Dr. Mamta Sharma, MO, MU Bhawan	SGC, Katra	40
17	Training Programme on Female Health & Wellness	Inhouse Medical Officer - Dr. Mamta Sharma & Sh. Raman Kumar Sharma, AM	SGC, Katra	30
18	Training in Excellence Programme (Art of Living)	Sh. Shakti Sagar & Ms. Archana Sukhija, Facilitators, Art of Living	Bhawan	20
19	Training Programme on Disaster Management for the employees of SMVDSB	NDRF, Bathinda, Punjab	NDRF, Bathinda, Punjab	25
20	Training Programme on Quality Management & Housekeeping	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	5
21	Training Programme on Managerial Effectiveness for Superior Performance	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	3
22	Training Programme on E-Tendering Procedures	NIC, Jammu	Conference Hall, SGC	24
23	Training Programme on Sanitation & Housekeeping	Inhouse Resource Persons - Sh. Imran Chowdary, JM & Sh. Mayank, Sani. Supervisor	SGC, Katra	30
24	Training Programme on Advance Computer Skills for Effective Performance	SMVDU, Kakryal	SMVDU	30



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25	Training Programme on Making First Impression: Communication Skills	Ms. Shruti Tripathi, Skywalk Solutions	SGC, Katra	30
26	Training Programme on Team Building & Conflict Management	Ms. Shruti Tripathi, Skywalk Solutions	SGC, Katra	30
27	Training Programme on Female Health & Wellness	Inhouse Medical Officer - Dr. Mamta Sharma & Sh. Raman Kumar Sharma, AM & Smt. Abhilasha Chowdhary, Asstt. Coach	SGC, Katra	25
28	Training Programme on Purchase Management	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	IRMA Anand, Gujarat	3
29	Training Programme on Sanitation & Housekeeping	Inhouse Resource Persons - Sh. Imran Chowdary, JM & Sh. Mayank, Sani. Supervisor	SGC, Katra	40
30	Training Programme on Disaster Management for the employees of SMVDSB	NDRF, Bathinda, Punjab	NDRF, Bathinda, Punjab	25
31	Training Programme on Noting and Drafting	Dr. Gopal Sharma, DM	SGC, Katra	18
32	Training Programme on Basic Life Support	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO, MU Tarakote Marg, Dr. Mamta Sharma, MO MU Bhawan & Para Medical Staff	SGC, Katra	40
33	Training Programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO, MU Tarakote Marg, Dr. Mamta Sharma, MO MU Bhawan & Para Medical Staff	SGC, Katra	40
34	Workshop on Goods & Services Tax	ISTM New Delhi	ISTM New Delhi	4
35	Programme on Training of Trainers	SMVDU, Kakryal	SMVDU, Kakryal	11
36	Training Programme for the employees of Forest Wing	Inhouse & External Experts	Kunia Nursery, Katra	27
37	Training Programme on Team Building & Conflict Management	Ms. Shruti Tripathi, Skywalk Solutions	SGC, Katra	30





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38	Training Programme on Making First Impression: Communication Skills	Ms. Shruti Tripathi, Skywalk Solutions	SGC, Katra	30
39	Training Programme on Advance Computer Skills for Effective Performance	SMVDU, Kakryal	SMVDU, Kakryal	30
40	Phase - I (4) Mid-Career Training (MCT) programme for Indian Forest Service Officers	IIM, Lucknow	IIM, Lucknow	1
41	Training in Excellence (Happiness Programme)	Art of Living	SGC, Katra	25
42	Training Programme for the Plumbers of SMVDSB	Jaquar Ltd.	Jaquar Orientation Centre, Jammu	23
43	Training Programme on Female Health & Wellness	Inhouse Medical Officer / Resource Person Dr. Mamta Sharma	Bhawan	40
44	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness for the employees of SMVDSB	Director (Enf. & Sec.) Neeraj Katoch, Sup. Sani.	Adhkuwari	100
45	Training Programme on Employee Health & Wellness	Inhouse Medical Officer / Resource Person Dr. Neeraj Sharma	SGC, Katra	50
46	Training Programme on Basic Life Support	In-house Medical Officer / Resource Person Dr. Neeraj Sharma	SGC, Katra	11
47	Training in Excellence (Happiness Programme)	Sh. Ajay Sukhija Facilitator - Art of Living	SGC, Katra	30
48	Training Programme on Healthy Lifestyle	Dr. Mamta Sharma Sh. Raman K Sharma Ms. Abhilasha Choudhary	SGC, Katra	33
49	Training Programme for the Supervisory Level Staff	M/s Hi-tech Sweet Water Tech Pvt. Ltd.	STP site at Toilet Block 03 & 04, Banganga.	10
50	Training Programme on Healthy Lifestyle	Dr. Neeraj Sharma Sh. Raman K Sharma Ms. Abhilasha Choudhary	SGC, Katra	50



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51	Training Programme for the employees of Forest Wing	Sh. Narinder Vig, M/S Rounak Seeds, Delhi	Kunia Nursery, Katra	14
52	Training Programme for the employees of Sanitation Wing	M/s Ornate Naturale, Bangalore	Balini , Katra	
53	Workshop of M/S Jaquar & Co. Ltd. at Bhiwadi & Manesar	M/s Jaquar & Co. Ltd.	Bhiwadi & Manesar	10
54	Training Programme on Sanitation & Housekeeping	Sh. Imran Chowdary Sh. Mayank Ms. Abhilasha Chaudhary	SGC, Katra	50
55	First Aid & Emergency Response	Dr. Neeraj Sharma Sh. Baroon Sharma Ms. Abhilsha Choudhary	SGC, Katra	50
56	Training Programme on Disaster Management for the employees of SMVDSB	NDRF, Bathinda, Punjab	Bathinda, Punjab	25
57	Training Programme on Basic Life Support	Dr. Harbhajan Singh, MO MU Adhkuwari Abhilasha Chaudhary	SGC, Katra	40
58	Training Programme for the employees of Sanitation Wing	M/S Ornate Naturale, Bangalore	SGC, Katra	10
59	Training Programme on Anger Management & Wellness	Ms. Shruti Tripathi, Skywalk Solutions	SGC, Katra	40
60	Training Programme on "Personality Development, Protection from Harassment and handling conflicts with safety measures.	Ms. Shruti Tripathi, Skywalk Solutions	SGC, Katra	30
61	Training in Excellence (Happiness Programme)	Art of Living	SGC, Katra	30
62	Training Programme on Sanitation & House Keeping	Sh. Imran Chowdary Sh. Mayank	SGC, Katra	50
63	Training Programme on Healthy Lifestyle	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO, MU Tarakote Sh. Raman K Sharma	SGC, Katra	50
64	Training Programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	Dr. Neeraj Sharma & Para Medical Staff	SGC, Katra	50



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65	Basic Disaster Management	Inhouse Resource Persons Sh. Raman K Sharma Sh. Neeraj Katoch, Sani. Sup. Sanjichhat Sh. Vishal Singh, Salesman, RU Adhkuwari	SGC, Katra	40
66	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness for the employees of SMVDSB	Sh. Neeraj Katoch, Sani. Sup. Sanjichhat Sh. Vishal Singh, Salesman, RU Adhkuwari Sh. Vikas Chandan, Jr. Sahayak, SW Bhawan.	Bhawan	60
67	Training Programme on Basic Life Support	Dr. Harbhajan Singh, MO MU Adhkuwari Sh. Anil Kumar Sh. Baroon Sharma	SGC, Katra	40
68	Training Programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO Sh. Baroon Sharma	SGC, Katra	50
69	Training Programme on Anger Management & Wellness	Dr. Shruti Tripathi, M/s Skywalk Solutions, LKO	SGC, Katra	35
70	Training Programme on Making First Impression: Communication Skills	Dr. Shruti Tripathi, M/s Skywalk Solutions, LKO	SGC, Katra	40
71	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness for the employees of SMVDSB	Director Enforcement Sh. Neeraj Katoch, Sani. Sup. Sanjichhat Sh. Vishal Singh, Salesman, RU Adhkuwari	Adhkuwari	55
72	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness for the employees of SMVDSB	Director Enforcement Sh. Neeraj Katoch, Sani. Sup. Sanjichhat Sh. Vishal Singh, Salesman, RU Adhkuwari	Sports Stadium	55
73	Training in Excellence (Happiness Programme)	Facilitator - Art of Living	SGC, Katra	25
74	Training Programme on Healthy Lifestyle	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, MO Sh. Sunil K Sharma	SGC, Katra	60
75	Training Programme on Sanitation & Housekeeping	Sh. Imran Chowdary Sh. Mayank	SGC, Katra	50



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76	Basic Disaster Management	Inhouse Resource Persons Sh. Raman K Sharma Sh. Neeraj Katoch, Sani. Sup. Sanjichhat Sh. Rakesh K Sharma, Salesman, KD Jammu Sh. Vikas Chandan, Jr, Sahayak	Sports Stadium, Katra	40
77	44 <sup>th</sup> Refresher Course for Pandits & Pujaris of SMVD Shrine Board	SMVD Gurukul	SMVD Gurukul	10
78	Training Programme on Basic Life Support & First Aid	Dr. Mamta Sharma, Medical Officer & Sh. Anil Kumar, Sr. Medical Asstt.	SGC, Katra	45
79	Training Programme for the Employees of Parks & Garden	Sh. Sunil Singh, Landscape Officer Sh. Vikrant Sharma, Floriculture Officer	SGC, Katra	27
80	Training Programme on Healthy Lifestyle	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Medical Officer Sh. Raman K Sharma	SGC, Katra	60
81	Training Programme on First Aid & Emergency Response	Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Medical Officer	SGC, Katra	60
82	Training Programme on Sanitation & Housekeeping	Sh. Imran Chowdary Sh. Mayank	SGC, Katra	55
83	Training Programme for the Employees of Parks & Garden	Sh. Sunil Singh, Landscape Officer Sh. Vikrant Sharma, Floriculture Officer	SGC, Katra	27
84	Training in Excellence (Happiness Programme)	Sh. Ajay Sukhija & Ms. Archana Sukhija - Facilitator - Art of Living	SGC, Katra	30
85	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness for the employees of SMVDSB	Director (Enf. & Sec) Adhkuwari Neeraj Katoch Vikas Chandan	Bhawan	55



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86	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness for the employees of SMVDSB	Director (Enf. & Sec) Adhkuwari Neeraj Katoch Vikas Chandan	Bhawan	40
87	Training cum Workshop on Agarbatti making from used flowers	Sh. R.K. Srivastava, Sr. Scientist, CSIR- CIMAP	SGC, Katra	20
88	Training Programme on Food Safety & Food Handling Activities	M/s AQMCS Pvt. Ltd.	SGC, Katra	19
89	Comprehensive development programme on GST, Procurement of Goods, Services & Contract Management	Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad	Hyderabad	1 (Chief Accounts Officer)
90	Training in Excellence (Happiness Programme)	Sh. Ajay Sukhija & Ms. Archana Sukhija - Facilitator - Art of Living	SGC, Katra	30
91	46 <sup>th</sup> Refresher Course for Pandits / Pujaris of SMVDSB	Principal, Gurukul	Gurukul	10
92	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness for the employees of SMVDSB	Director (Enf. & Sec) Adhkuwari Neeraj Katoch Vikas Chandan	Bhawan	65
93	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness for the employees of SMVDSB	Director (Enf. & Sec) Adhkuwari Neeraj Katoch Vikas Chandan	Bhawan	65
94	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness for the employees of SMVDSB	Director (Enf. & Sec) Adhkuwari Neeraj Katoch Vikas Chandan	Adhkuwari	31
95	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness for the employees of SMVDSB	Director (Enf. & Sec) Adhkuwari Neeraj Katoch Vikas Chandan	Sports Stadium	67
96	Training Programme on Fire Fighting Preparedness for the employees of SMVDSB	Director (Enf. & Sec) Adhkuwari Neeraj Katoch Vikas Chandan	Jammu	29
				3041

**Actual Employees covered in the training programme**

**General = 2500**

**MRW = 52**



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<b>WORKSHOPS 2019-20 / OUTREACH PROGRAMME</b>				
S.NO.	NAME OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM	TRAINING INSTITUTE/ FACULTY	LOCATION/ VENUE	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
1	Workshop on "Science in Day to Day Life"	In collaboration with National Academy of Sciences India (NASI), Allahabad (Local Chapter)	SMVD Gurukul	182 students from Class 6 <sup>th</sup> to Shastri-Part II
2	Capacity Building Programme for Service Providers (Pony Owners, Pithoos & Palkiwalas)	Sahyog India, Jammu	Auditorium SGC, Katra	150
3	Special Programme on Stress Management and Yoga Abhiyas for the employees of SMVD Shrine Board	Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, J&K	Auditorium SGC, Katra & Sports Stadium, Katra	Employees & outsiders
4	Programme on Basic Meditation (Yes Programme) for the students of SMVD Gurukul	Facilitator - Art of Living (Ms Archana Sukhija)	SMVD Gurukul	137 students of SMVD Gurukul
5	Workshop on Communication Skills in English	Ms. Neha Jamwal, TGT Modern Subject, Gurukul	SGC, Katra	10

### 7.4 Interactions & Grievance Redressal Camps

A comprehensive institutional mechanism has been put in place for organising interactions and redressal of grievances of the Shrine Board staff. In furtherance of these objectives, 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 other locations. Awards and appreciations are also given to selected Safaikaramcharis and other employees in these programmes to recognise their efforts and devotion to duty.



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CEO interacting with Shrine Board staff at Bhawan.

In this context, Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, accompanied by a team of officers, held an interactive session with the staff at Bhawan on 17 December. The staff briefed the CEO about the various personnel and professional issues and also presented to him their demands. The CEO issued on the spot directions to the concerned to ensure time bound disposal of personnel matters of the employees. Besides, health and dental check-up camps were also organised by the Board for the employees on this occasion.

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 86 applications received in these sessions during 2019-20 were disposed of in a time bound manner.



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### 8. Lt. Governor visits Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu, who is the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 26 November paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and prayed for peace, harmony, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu during visit to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then CEO of the Shrine Board; and Ms. Indu Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi; received the Lt. Governor at the helipad. The First Lady, Ms. Smita Murmu also accompanied the Lt. Governor during the visit.

The Lt. Governor went around the Shrine complex, interacted with the pilgrims and enquired about the facilities made available for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. The Lt. Governor was briefed about the ongoing projects, besides the arrangements being put in place to augment the facilities for the pilgrims.





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### 9. Projects Inaugurated

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

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

The Lt. Governor had a round of the hostel buildings and inspected the facilities being provided to the students. He directed the CEO of the Shrine Board to ensure adequate provision for harnessing rain water and solar energy in the newly constructed Hostel buildings. He also asked the CEO for taking up plantation at the available space around the Hostel buildings to make the campus green besides ensuring that all the buildings of the Board are environment-friendly.



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

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



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

### **9.2 New Audio System becomes operational on Tarakote Marg**

For facilitating pilgrims who use the scenic Tarakote Marg in their journey to the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, a hi-tech Multipurpose Audio System of BOSE, has been made operational from 8 June 2019.



New audio system inaugurated on Tarakote Marg on 8.6.2019.

The Audio System was formally inaugurated by a group of pilgrims from Sonapat, Haryana, in presence of Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; by operationalising its Main



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Control Room on the Tarakote Marg amidst performing of *Havan Yagya* and chanting of Vedic mantras.

The system has been installed through M/s BOSE Corp. India Pvt. Ltd. at a cost of about Rs. 4.55 crore, which includes comprehensive operational and maintenance cost for 5 years. The system is being used to play specially composed devotional and spiritual music “Chants”, “Mantras”, “Stotras”, Bhaints and live Atka Aarti from the Holy Cave. Besides, the important public announcements and yatra related advisories are also broadcast. It has been synchronised with the similar Multipurpose Audio System which is already operational along the three stretches of pilgrimage tracks i.e. Darshani Deodi to Adhkuwari, Adhkuwari to Bhawan via Sanjichhat and Bhairon and Adhkuwari to Bhawan via Himkoti.

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

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

The MoU was signed by Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board and Sh. Bhaskar Jyoti Deuri, Controller of Administration, CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow. Dr. Alok Kalra, former Director, CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow; Sh. R. K. Srivastava, Senior Scientist and Head, Rural Development, CSIR-CIMAP; Dr. Sunil Sharma and Sh. Deepak Dubey, Dy. Chief Executive Officers; and other concerned officers of the Shrine Board were present on the occasion.



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



CSIR-CIMAP signs MoU with Shrine Board.

### 9.4 Shrine Board dedicates additional facilities to pilgrims

A number of pilgrim-centric infrastructural facilities were commissioned at Katra and Adhkuwari, which were put in place by the Shrine Board at a cost of over Rs. 5.75 crore.

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB on 11 July inaugurated 22 rooms at Niharika Complex, Katra which were rededicated to pilgrims after complete renovation and refurbishment. The newly renovated Annapoorna Bhojanalaya in the Niharika Complex was also dedicated to pilgrims.

Accompanied by a team of concerned officers and engineers, the CEO also took stock of infrastructure at Darshani Deodi which was refurbished by way of replacement of the earlier stone with carved marble



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



The biggest Toilet Complex commissioned at Adhkuwari.

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



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### 10. Additional facilities to pilgrims

#### 10.1 Shrine Board starts Langar for pilgrims on Tarakote Marg

For facilitation of the pilgrims, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board started a free community kitchen (Langar) from 9 May 2019 at Tarakote on the picturesque Tarakote Marg between Katra and Adhkuwari. The Langar provides traditional food of the region to the pilgrims round the clock at Tarakote Marg, amidst the beautiful ambience of the floating fountains in the water body developed by the Board in the backdrop of the Trikuta Hills. It is pertinent to mention that Tarakote Marg was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 19 May 2018.



Langar being inaugurated on Tarakote Marg on 9.5.2019.

The Langar facility was formally inaugurated by a group of pilgrims from Mumbai, in the presence of Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO and other officers and employees of the Board amidst chanting of Vedic mantras and performing of pooja.



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The Langar facility has commenced at the already existing spacious Bhojanalaya of the Board at Tarakote, which can cater to around 200 pilgrims at a time. The community kitchen has been equipped with modern kitchenware, utensils and other gadgets to provide hygienic and wholesome food to the pilgrims. The facility can cater to 8500 pilgrims per day. The Langar also has the unique distinction of one of the only such facilities in the country being run 24 hours a day, throughout the year.

General Bipin Rawat, the then Chief of the Army Staff and presently Chief of Defence Staff, during his visit to the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on 4 June, also took Prasad at the Langar, being run by the Board on the Tarakote Marg. He was accompanied by senior Army officers. Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Sh. Jagdish Mehra, Dy. CEO received the Army Chief at Tarakote Marg.



General Bipin Rawat, the then Chief of the Army Staff and presently the Chief of Defence Staff at the Shrine Board Langar at Tarakote on 4.6.2019.



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

For facilitation of pilgrims, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board started a free *Prasad Sewa* from 21 February 2020 at Sanjichhat also located on the traditional track leading to the Holy Cave Shrine. This facility has been made available to the pilgrims round the clock throughout the year.



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







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

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

The hi-tech computerised pre-paid management system, integrated with CCTV Cameras and video conferencing facilities, for hiring ponies, pithoos and palkis, which was launched by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for the facilitation of pilgrims, completed one year of its successful operation. More than 20 lakh pilgrims availed the facility of this 24x7 hi-tech system, which was commissioned on 26 February 2019.

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



Pilgrims availing services at a pre-paid counter.



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

The functioning of the pre-paid system is reviewed regularly for bringing about further improvements in the system, by technological interventions, wherever possible, for further facilitation of the pilgrims, who avail the services of ponies, pithoos and palkis during the pilgrimage.



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### 11. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine adjudged the Best Swachh Iconic Place

#### **President of India gives award to CEO Shrine Board**

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



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

The award was given by Sh. Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, at a ceremony held in connection with the Swachh Mahotsav at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 6 September. The Swachh Mahotsav was



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organized by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The prestigious award was received on behalf of Shrine Board by Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then Chief Executive Officer. The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, had earlier released its rankings of Swachh Iconic Places, in which Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine was adjudged as the Best Swachh Iconic Place in the country. This is the third successive year of the Board being awarded in the field of sanitation at national level.

As an encouragement to the dedicated team of sanitation staff, the one week's additional salary for the sanitation staff as a special one-time incentive was provided by the Board.

### 12. CEO Shrine Board felicitates Master Pranshu for bagging Vakratund Gold Medal for securing 1st position

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board on 20 December visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra and interacted with the faculty, staff and the students.



CEO Shrine Board felicitating Master Pranshu of Gurukul.



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The CEO inspected the classrooms, computer lab, language lab, library and other facilities during the visit and asked for bringing about further improvements in the facilities, wherever required. Interacting with the students, he congratulated them for their laudable achievements in academics and co-curricular activities.

The CEO also felicitated Master Pranshu Sharma, student of the Gurukul, who stood first in the university by securing maximum marks in the class 8<sup>th</sup> examination conducted by the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, in May-June 2019. For his outstanding achievement, Master Pranshu was awarded prestigious Vakratund Gold Medal by the Vishwavidyalaya at its Convocation held on 5 December at Varanasi.

### **13. Social Support Initiatives**

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

#### **13.1 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 provided more than Rs. 6.30 crore as scholarships to 12668 students belonging to the erstwhile Baridar families from 2002-03 to 2019-20.



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Under the scholarship scheme of the Board, priority is given to promote the education of girls by providing them scholarships at a higher scale. Presently, the students studying in class 1<sup>st</sup> 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 country, provided that the beneficiary student's family normally resides in the villages surrounding the Trikuta Hills.

On similar lines, the basic financial assistance provided by the Board for the marriage of a daughter belonging to the erstwhile Baridar family is Rs. 51,000/-. In case the bride's father is not alive or both her parents are not alive, the financial assistance given is Rs. 61,000/- and Rs. 75,000/- respectively.

In the past 16 years since the inception of this scheme, over Rs. 4.03 crore have been paid in form of financial assistance and gifts for celebration of marriages of 1143 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 Samridhi Yojana' aims at financial



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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 62<sup>nd</sup> 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 expenditure of around Rs. 67.80 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. In all, 565 girl children were found eligible for the scheme. The total financial outgo per child will be Rs. 1.68 lakh for a period of 14 years.

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. The initiative is targeted to ameliorate the lot of economically poor households residing in such remote areas.

Besides, the Shrine Board has adopted a Girl Child Scheme which covers all the girls born during the Silver Jubilee Year of the Shrine Board (30-08-2011 to 30-08-2012) in the families of the erstwhile Baridars living in the vicinity of the Shrine. This Scheme also covers the girls born in the families of the Shrine Board employees during the aforesaid period.

Under this scheme, Rs. 1.00 lakh has been placed in a Fixed Deposit in the name of the girl child adopted by the Board which can be encashed only after she completes 12<sup>th</sup> class or attains the age of 18 years. The maturity amount shall be utilized for pursuing higher or vocational education or for undertaking self-employment.



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Accordingly, 156 girl children who are covered under this scheme, 79 belong to the erstwhile Baridar families and 77 to the employees of the Shrine Board. An amount of Rs. 1.56 crore has been deposited in the names of the 156 girl children born during the Silver Jubilee Year of the Board.

The families of these girl children are also being provided Rs. 500/- per month for the nutrition and proper upbringing of the girl children till they attain the age of 18 years and under this head so far Rs. 73.91 lakh have been paid to the parents of these children.

These girl children born during the Silver Jubilee Year of the Shrine Board are also entitled, as they grow up, to avail scholarships under the scheme which covers students belonging to the erstwhile Baridar families. Further, at the time of marriage, the girls adopted by the Board, would also be eligible for the same scale of financial assistance as is paid to the daughters of erstwhile Baridar families.

### **13.2 Shrine Board's Medical Support Policy**

During the Financial Year 2019-20, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board spent an amount of Rs. 876.29 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 Landowners (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:





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S. No.	Category	OPD / IPD	FY/ 2019-20	
			(Apr 19- Mar 20)	
			No.	Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)
1	Pilgrims	OPD/ IPD	343	168.34
2	Landowners	OPD	445	6.92
3	Employees & their dependents	OPD	12451	126.27
		IPD	1933	484.35
4	Students of SMVDCoN	OPD	866	13.53
		IPD	9	3.56
5	Students of Gurukul	OPD	139	1.93
		IPD	4	0.99
6	Gratuitous Relief	OPD/ IPD	75	70.05
7	Special Accident Cases	IPD	2	0.35
<b>Total:</b>			<b>16267</b>	<b>876.29</b>

### 13.3 Shrine Board provides 4 load carriers to Municipal Committee Katra

Continuing with its Social Support Policy, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on 27 June 2019 provided four load carriers to the Municipal Committee, Katra, for collection and transportation of municipal solid waste at a cost of over Rs. 26.78 lakh.

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, handed over the keys of three Tata Xenon and one Mahindra Loading Optimo vehicle to Sh. Vimal Indu, President, Municipal Committee, Katra, at a brief function held at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex. The President of the Municipal Committee, Katra, lauded the Shrine Board for providing support to the Municipal Committee from time to time and initiating various development works aimed at improving sanitation and other civic amenities in Katra.



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CEO, SMVDSB handing over keys of vehicles to President Municipal Committee Katra on 27.6.2019.

It was informed by Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then CEO that the Shrine Board has completed several development works in Katra and its surrounding areas for augmenting and upgrading the civic amenities while a number of more such works have also been planned for execution in future.

Members of the Municipal Committee, Katra, officers of the Shrine Board and Municipal Committee besides a number of prominent citizens were present on the occasion.

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

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



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

The donated amount was raised by the Shrine Board employees through contribution of their one day's salary while the gazetted officers of the Board contributed their two days' salary towards the Relief Fund.

On the directions of the Chairman of the Shrine Board, the Board on 29 March distributed ration kits among the slum dwellers and other stranded workers at Katra.

### **14. Events during the year**

#### **14.1 Shrine Board celebrates 34<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day**

Performing of Pooja, Havan, Yagya and organizing of several other events marked the celebration of 34<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on 30 August. These functions were organised at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Katra, Jammu and other locations in which the staff of the Shrine Board and a large number of pilgrims participated.

At the culmination of these functions, *Prasad* was distributed among the pilgrims and employees of Shrine Board. On this occasion,



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the employees of the Shrine Board also took pledge to perform their duties with sincerity and devotion.



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

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

### 14.2 Annual Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, celebrated its Annual Day at a function held at the Auditorium of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University on 30 August.

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



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Prof. Shukla lauded the Shrine Board for establishing the Gurukul and gave away prizes and certificates to the meritorious students.

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

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



Gurukul students with dignitaries after staging Sanskrit play.

Dr. Arvind Karwani, the then Dy. CEO, SMVDSB and Administrator of the Gurukul, presented welcome address while Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal of the Gurukul, presented Annual Report of the institution.

On this occasion, the students of the Gurukul staged an impressive Sanskrit play, "Madhyama Vyay Yog" and other cultural items.

### 14.3 Annual Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing

The Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> Batch of B.Sc. Nursing students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal and the Annual Day function of this institution was held at the Matrika Auditorium of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, on 4 February.



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



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

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

Speaking during the function, the Lt. Governor said that the Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony was an important occasion for every nursing student as it marked the commitment of a nurse to adhere to the highest professional values and standards. He congratulated the student nurses for embarking on a noble profession like nursing which is a vital component of any healthcare system and lauded their parents for choosing the profession of nursing for their wards.



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

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

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

### **14.4 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital**

The then Governor, J&K and Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sh. Satya Pal Malik, on 19 April 2019 attended the function organised to mark 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal, which was held at the Matrika Auditorium of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty, Chairman and Founder of Narayana Health; Dr. Ashok Bhan and Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; and Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then CEO of the Shrine Board were among those present on the occasion.

The Governor complimented the staff of the hospital for coming up to the expectations of people in providing quality tertiary care to patients at an affordable cost.



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The Governor congratulated Dr. Tsering Landol, Dr. G. Q. Allaqaband and Dr. C. D. Gupta, who were felicitated, on the occasion, in recognition of their life time contributions in the medical profession.



Governor Satya Pal Malik felicitating doctors at the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of SMVDNSH, Kakryal on 19.4.2019.

### 15. Board Meetings

During the year, two meetings of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup>) under the chairmanship of the Lt. Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu, Chairman of the Shrine Board were held on 5 December 2019 and 20 March 2020, respectively which took a number of significant decisions for facilitation of the pilgrims.

At the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board important decisions taken were mostly aimed at continually improving facilities for the pilgrims. The Lt. Governor directed the CEO of the Board to ensure envisaged timelines for completion of projects for facilitating the pilgrims and in sync with the emerging requirements of the pilgrimage.

The meeting, interalia, reviewed the status of installation of CCTV Surveillance System on the entire track from Darshani Deodi to Bhawan which will be implemented on turnkey basis. Once in place, this system will help in monitoring the movement of the pilgrims and strengthening overall security measures and besides, it will be of immense support in





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case of any emergency situations to provide real time assistance to the Shrine Board and local administration.

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. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Bipul Pathak, Principal Secretary to the Lt. Governor; Sh. Simrandeep Singh, outgoing Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; and Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO-designate of the Board.

The Board also reviewed the status of the implementation of the Bhawan Master Plan which involves construction of the mega Durga Bhawan for accommodating nearly 4000 pilgrims at Bhawan area, Inlet Queue Management System at Bhawan, Exit Track at Bhawan, and Queue Management System at Bhairon Ji. The estimated cost of the implementation of first phase of Bhawan Master Plan is likely to be Rs. 90 crore. It also took stock of the status of the underground cabling project, from Katra to Bhawan and the surrounding areas, which already stands allotted to a company by the Power Development Department of J&K Government. Estimated to cost Rs. 78 crore, the project will be partly funded under the PMDP and partly by the Shrine Board. This high utility project will have SCADA compliance based monitoring system of the electric network.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of Annual Green Plan of the Board for current year and also approved the Annual Green Plan for the year 2020-21.

In several significant decisions towards employee welfare, the Board ratified the reduction of Term Employment period from 7 to 3 years. It also endorsed a Higher Pay Scale scheme for in-situ promotions for Board employees. The Board also accepted the



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recommendations of the Personnel Matters Committee regarding the much awaited re-structuring of several cadres intended at reducing stagnation in several cadres. To begin with, the General, the Sanitation, the Medical/Nursing, and the Catering cadres have been approved for restructuring. The Board also announced setting up of Employees Welfare Fund which entails initial contribution towards the corpus from the Shrine Board and thereafter regular contributions from all employees every month.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu chairing 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of SMVDSB at Raj Bhavan Jammu.

The 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was held at the Raj Bhavan at Jammu on 20 March under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu, Chairman of the Shrine Board. The Hon'ble Chairman reviewed and appreciated the timely and necessary precautionary measures taken by the Board in view of the outbreak of coronavirus for ensuring the safety of the visiting pilgrims, staff and the public in general.

The meeting lauded these pro-active initiatives viz. installation of bilingual hoardings on the track from Katra to Bhawan, distributing pamphlets among the pilgrims, making announcements in regard to the advisories on the Multipurpose Audio System in the Shrine area for the



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information of the pilgrims, making available Self Declaration Forms at Yatra Registration Counters, Enquiry and Registration Counter, Helipad Terminals and all accommodation complexes of the Board, deploying Thermal Image Scanners at Yatra entry points of Banganga, Tarakote and Katra Helipad for screening of pilgrims, regularly using and spraying disinfectants all along the track, accommodations, bhojanalayas, toilet blocks, queues, railings, door handles as well as providing face masks, hand sanitizers and disinfectants to all units of the Board.

The meeting, which was attended by H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar (who attended the meeting through video conferencing), Dr. Ashok Bhan, Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma and Sh. K. K. Sharma, all Board Members; Sh. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt. Governor; Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education; Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; and Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional Chief Executive Officer, took stock of the various projects taken up and accomplished by the Board for the benefit of the society at large, such as establishment of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Gurukul, Superspeciality Hospital and the Nursing College, besides taking various social support initiatives and gave in-principle approval to the proposal for creation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Charitable Society to manage non-pilgrimage activities of the Board.

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



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

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

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

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

### **16. 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



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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.

### 16.1 **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 16 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 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 among the engineering and management institutions in NIRF with every passing year.



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A view of sprawling campus of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

### 16.2 **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 alongwith 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 emphasises is also on skill upgradation of students by imparting practical training to them in Vedic Mantras, Karam Kand, Jyotish, etc. to enhance their employability. The Gurukul has also been upgraded to provide education upto Shastri level from the 2017-18 academic session for which Gurukul Phase-II has been constructed.

Presently, 179 students are studying in classes 6<sup>th</sup> to Shastri Part-III 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



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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.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul Complex.

### 16.3 **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



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Devi University. Besides having a highly qualified faculty, the institution is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure.



Newly constructed 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 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 is passing out in 2020.

### 16.4 **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.





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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 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.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital.

### 16.5 Shrine Board's Sports Complex

The Shrine Board's Sports Complex established at Katra, was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in 2016, has become a hub 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.



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CEO with medal winners at Sports Complex.

The major events held at the Sports Complex during the year 2019-20, interalia, included summer and winter coaching camps, International Yoga Day, 2nd Division I-League Football Tournament in which Punjab FC defeated Lone Star Kashmir FC by a solitary goal. The event was organised by Lone Star Kashmir FC & Jammu and Kashmir Football Association in collaboration with Shrine Board's Sports Complex, under the aegis of All India Football Federation at Katra on 8 February.



Participants of 2nd Division I-League Football Tournament being introduced with CEO Shrine Board.



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

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council of Sports Complex, inaugurated the sports festival in the presence of Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board. The CEO felicitated the prize winners of the event on the concluding day.

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



CEO Shrine Board with prize winners of women sports festival.

During 2019-20 the notable achievements of the Shrine Board's Sports Complex were - Sh. Rakesh Kumar, an archer of the Sports Complex qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, archers of the Complex won bronze medal in the 5<sup>th</sup> Fazza World Ranking and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division I-League Football match was hosted. Regular sports events were organised at



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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.

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.



Archer Rakesh Kumar of Shrine Board's Sports Complex qualifies for Tokyo Olympics



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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 !





