



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Trikuta

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65th Meeting of SMVDSB

Lt. Governor for continually improving Yatra facilities

The 65th meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was held at the Raj Bhavan at Jammu on 5 December under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu, Chairman of the Shrine Board.



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

The meeting was attended by all Board Members of SMVDSB - H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Sh. K. B. Kachru, Sh. K. K. Sharma, Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma and Sh. Vijay Dhar; Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Bipul Pathak, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor; Sh. Simrandeep Singh, outgoing Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO-designate of the Board; and Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO of the Board.

The Board reviewed various pilgrim-centric infrastructural facilities and emphasised the need for ensuring that the yatris are provided increasingly best possible arrangements in sync with the emerging requirements.



The Board was apprised about the to date functioning of University, Hospital, Nursing College, Gurukul and Sports Complex.

The present status of the installation of CCTV Surveillance System on the entire track from Darshani Deodi to Bhawan, was reviewed in the meeting. 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 in 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 the first phase of Bhawan Master Plan is likely to be Rs. 90 crore.

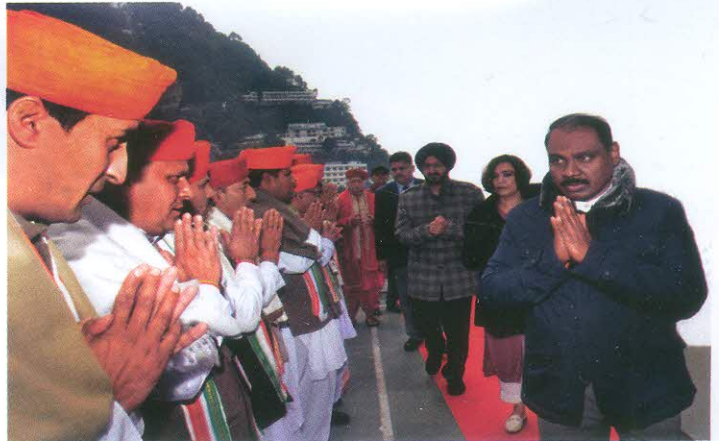
The Board reviewed the status of the underground cabling project, a high utility SCADA compliance based monitoring system of the electric network from Katra to Bhawan and the surrounding areas, which is likely to be completed in 24 months at an estimated cost of Rs. 78 crore. The meeting reviewed the implementation of the Annual Green Plan of the Board for the 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 recommendations of the Personnel Matters Committee regarding the much awaited restructuring 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 pays obeisance at 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.

Ramesh Kumar takes over as CEO of Shrine Board

Sh. Ramesh Kumar on 6 December took over the charge of the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board from Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the outgoing CEO.



**Sh. Ramesh Kumar, new CEO, SMVDSB presenting
memento to Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the outgoing CEO**



The officers and staff of the Shrine Board organised an impressive function to bid farewell to Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the outgoing CEO, and to welcome Sh. Ramesh Kumar, the new CEO of the Shrine Board.

CEO Shrine Board calls on Lt. Governor

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, called on the Lt. Governor, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu at the Raj Bhavan on 28 December and briefed him about the to-date progress of the Board's various ongoing projects in Katra and the Shrine area.

The CEO apprised the Lt. Governor about the arrangements being put in place to augment the existing facilities for the pilgrims and the service providers and assured that the Shrine Board is all geared up for the upcoming yatra season.

The Lt. Governor while reviewing the progress of upgradation of wayside facilities along the tracks called for renewed focus on sanitation and maintenance of impeccable hygienic conditions in and around the Bhojanalayas and directed the CEO to provide best langar facilities and usage of environment friendly material in Bhojanalayas.



CEO Shrine Board calls on Lt. Governor at Raj Bhavan, Jammu

The Lt. Governor directed the CEO to conduct a technical safety and fire audit of the ropeway and devise a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the inspection of the said ropeway periodically to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims. He also directed the CEO to ensure that all the upcoming projects be completed as per the envisaged timelines for largely facilitating the pilgrims.

CEO SMVD Shrine Board inspects facilities for pilgrims

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 14 December inspected ongoing major development works and facilities for the pilgrims from Darshani Deodi to Bhawan. The arrangements included crowd management, water and power supply, clearance of snow in the Bhawan area, medicare facilities, sanitation and cleanliness, etc.

He also inspected the work on underground cabling project and free Langar being run by the Board for the pilgrims at Tarakote Marg. At Adhkuwari, he inspected Bhojanalaya, medicare facilities, 4-storey earthquake resistant Toilet Block, the centralised 400 KLD STP besides, other arrangements for the pilgrims.



CEO Shrine Board inspecting facilities for pilgrims

60th GB meeting of SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital held

The 60th meeting of Governing Body of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital was held at Kakryal on 20 December, in which several decisions for future growth of the hospital and further enhancing of its operational capacities and standards of patient care in tune with the emerging requirements were taken.

The GB felt the need for more and more consultants of repute from various NH Hospitals in the country to visit SMVDNSH Kakryal on a regular basis to facilitate specialised treatment of patients, wherever required. The GB also desired for exploring the possibility of increasing the number of ICU beds to cater to the emerging requirements.



Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of the SMVDNSH, chaired the meeting, and Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd), Member Shrine Board; Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Sh. Viren Shetty, Group Chief Operating Officer, NH; and Cdr. Navneet Bali, Director, Northern Region, NH; who all are Members of the Governing Body, participated in the deliberations.



Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board chairing GB of SMVDNSH

Among those who also took part in the meeting included Sh. Ravi Magotra, former Director General Accounts; Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer, SMVDSB; Sh. A. Nagarajan, Senior Vice President Finance, NH; Dr. (Brig) Man Mohan Harjai, the then Chief Administrative Officer, SMVDNSH; Sh. K. S. Dattatreya, the then Facility Director and Dr. (Col.) R. C. Sahni, Medical Superintendent of the hospital.

Other matters that came up for review of the GB included outreach activities of the hospital organised in the past months, feedback and suggestions of the patients and their attendants and functioning of Jammu OPD of the hospital.

GB reviews functioning of SMVD College of Nursing

The 37th Governing Body meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), was held at Kakryal on 30 December to review various aspects of functioning of the college.

The GB underscored the need for according very high focus on the internship of the students so that they could gain sufficient clinical work experience and

expertise. The 6-month internship of the first batch of the SMVDCoN, which is passing out next year, will commence from January 2020 at the SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, for which a comprehensive clinical training plan was finalized.



Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd), Member Shrine Board chairing GB of SMVDCoN

The GB also took stock of various pre-placement activities organised by the Placement Cell of the SMVDCoN and stressed for exploring possibilities for entering into collaborations with various leading nursing institutions in the country to provide maximum work experience to the students for optimally enhancing the prospects of suitable placements of the passing-out students of the college.

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

The GB also finalised the arrangements for the 4th Lamp Lighting Ceremony and Annual Day function of the college and also reviewed progress on the upcoming infrastructure of SMVDCoN being completed as per envisaged timelines.

Over 20 lakh pilgrims avail facility of Bhawan-Bhairon Passenger Ropeway

The Bhawan-Bhairon Passenger Ropeway installed by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for facilitation of the visiting pilgrims completed one year of its successful operation on 24 December. 20.20 lakh pilgrims availed the facility of this hi-tech ropeway which was commissioned on 24 December 2018.



Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, reviewed functioning of the Passenger Ropeway at a meeting of the concerned officers of the Board at Katra and stressed for ensuring highest safety standards of the ropeway.



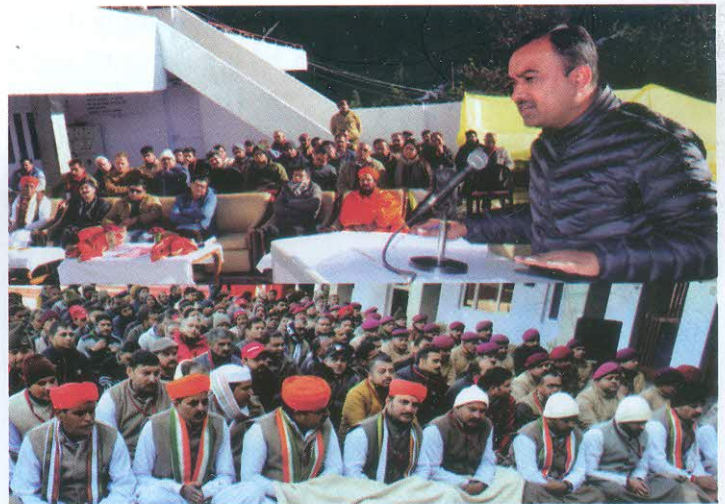
A view of Bhawan-Bhairon Passenger Ropeway

The Passenger Ropeway Project was completed by the Shrine Board at a cost of about Rs. 85 crore including its allied infrastructure and related pilgrim-centric facilities. Having two fully enclosed spacious cabins with a carrying capacity of 45 persons in each cabin in one go, the ropeway can carry upto 800 persons per hour.

CEO Shrine Board interacts with staff at Bhawan

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, accompanied by a team of officers, on 17 December held an interactive session with the staff at Bhawan.

The staff briefed the CEO about the various personnel and professional issues and also presented to him their demands. These, interalia, pertained to pay fixation, regularisation, promotions, release of grades etc. The CEO issued on the spot directions to the concerned to ensure time bound disposal of personnel matters of the employees. He also gave details of various initiatives and welfare measures which have already been taken by the Board and those in the pipeline for addressing the difficulties of the staff and ensuring their better career prospects.



CEO interacting with Shrine Board staff at Bhawan

Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. CEO spoke about the aims and objectives of organising such interaction sessions with the staff. Sh. Naresh Kumar, SDM Bhawan; Sh. Manu Hansa, Asstt. CEO; and Sh. Gopal Sharma, Head Pujari, Bhawan; were among those who also spoke on the occasion.

Health and dental check-up camps were also organised by the Board for the employees on this occasion.

Commissioner/Secretary PHE reviews water supply status with CEO SMVDSB

Sh. Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Commissioner/Secretary, PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, reviewed the status of water supply schemes for Katra town and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine with Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board at a meeting held at Katra on 13 December. Various measures for augmenting the water supply in the Shrine area were discussed.



Sh. Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Commissioner/Secretary, PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control reviewing water supply status with Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO of Shrine Board



Sh. Sahu asked the SE PHE, Udhampur-Reasi for taking measures for lifting 3 lakh gallons of water per day from Nau-Devian source. He also asked the engineers to install SCADA system for monitoring of all the PHE water supply schemes in the Shrine area for effective operation and maintenance of these schemes. He also instructed to submit the DPRs for setting up of Advanced Filtration Plants at Siar Dabri, Pai Nallah and Bhage-wala Gharat water supply schemes.

CEO Shrine Board felicitates Master Pranshu for bagging Vakratund Gold Medal

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

The CEO inspected the classrooms, computer lab, language lab, library and other facilities 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.



CEO Shrine Board felicitating Master Pranshu of Gurukul

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

Presently 179 students are studying in this fully residential institution which was established by the Shrine Board in 2010. Education, boarding, lodging, books, uniforms etc. are being provided to the students by the Shrine Board totally free of cost.

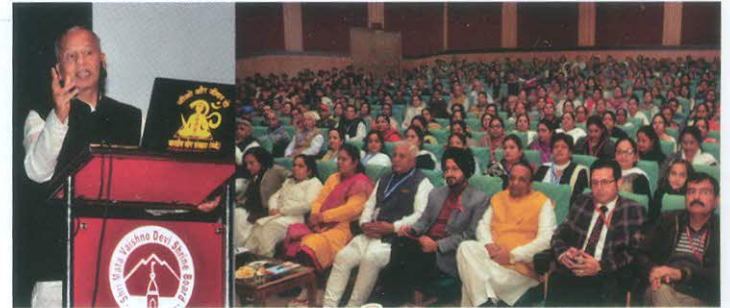
Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. CEO of the Board and Administrator of the Gurukul; Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal; Dr. Devendra Rijal, Vice Principal; besides other concerned officers and engineers of the Board were present during inspection visit of the CEO.

Shrine Board and Bharatiya Yog Sansthan organise yoga event and workshop on stress management

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in collaboration with Bharatiya Yog Sansthan organised a workshop on stress management besides yoga event at Katra on 2 December.

A large number of yoga enthusiasts, officers and employees of the Shrine Board and their family members, pilgrims, students of Gurukul and various other educational institutions participated in the stress management workshop as well as the yoga event.

The programme commenced with lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board.



Sh. Des Raj, National General Secretary, Bharatiya Yog Sansthan addressing the workshop

Sh. Des Raj, National General Secretary, Bharatiya Yog Sansthan, New Delhi extensively threw light on the causes of stress and gave some tips in regard to stress management for living a stress-free life. He also dwelt on the benefits of yoga in living a healthy and happy life. He congratulated the Shrine Board for starting yoga centre at its Sports Complex at Katra as well as providing the best possible



facilities to the pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

Later, a yoga event was also organised at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex in which series of asanas, pranayam and meditation techniques were performed. Sh. Des Raj conducted the session on pranayam while the asanas were held under the supervision of other yoga experts. Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. CEO of the Shrine Board presented vote of thanks while Sh. Jia Lal Sharma, Secretary, Bharatiya Yog Sansthan, Jammu conducted proceedings of the yoga event.

Eminent scientists, research scholars participate in INSPIRE Fellowship programme

A 3-day Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Fellowship Review Meeting Programme, organised by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, in collaboration with the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, was held at the Spiritual Growth Centre at Katra from 11 October onwards. A galaxy of scientists and research scholars from the premier institutions of various northern parts of the country took part in this scientific event.

The programme commenced with lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Dr. A. S. Ahluwalia, Professor, Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Chairman of the INSPIRE Fellowship Review Meeting; Mr. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO of the Shrine Board and other dignitaries.



Dr. A.S. Ahluwalia inaugurating INSPIRE programme at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra

Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, Member Governing Council for Gurukul, spoke extensively about science and religion and congratulated the organisers for conducting the INSPIRE programme in collaboration with the Gurukul.

Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board and Administrator of the Gurukul, gave details of the aims and objectives of establishment of the Gurukul besides its history and growth as a premier institution.

Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal; and Dr. Devendra Rijal, Vice Principal of the Gurukul gave welcome address and vote of thanks, respectively.

A number of research scholars presented their research work for evaluation during the INSPIRE programme.

Team of scientists interacts with officers and staff of Shrine Board

A multi-disciplinary team of scientists, from within the country and abroad, had an interaction with the officers and employees of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, at the SGC, Katra. The team of scientists had come to take part in a 2-day workshop on increasing earthquake resilience in North India held at Jammu on 29th and 30th November and they had planned a visit to the Shrine Board as part of their pre-workshop visit.

The visiting team of seismologists and other scientists comprised Professor James Jackson, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge; Dr. Ramesh Guragain, Deputy Executive Director, National Society for Earthquake Technology, Nepal; Dr. Alex Copley, University of Cambridge; Dr. Morteza, former Director Research, School of Earth Sciences, Geological Survey of Iran, Tehran; Prof. Supriyo Mitra, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata; Dr. Sunil Wanchoo, SMVDU as well as research scholars from various institutions.

Interacting with the team of scientists, Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. CEO of the Shrine Board, dwelt on various initiatives which have been taken by the Board in regard to disaster management preparedness.



'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign

CEO Shrine Board distributes prizes

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board organised pledge taking ceremony and valedictory function of the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign at the Spiritual Growth Centre at Katra on 2 October.

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, the then CEO of the Shrine Board, gave away mementos to the Area/ Unit Heads of the Shrine Board and heads of various institutions for conducting the campaign most successfully. He also distributed prizes and certificates among the students who excelled in different activities and competitions organised by the Board during the campaign which was conducted in collaboration with the Indian Oil Corporation.

Among those present on the occasion were Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; Dr. Jagdish Mehra, Dy. CEO; Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal, SMVD College of Nursing; Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal, SMVD Gurukul; Sh. Pratiush Baboria, AM, Indian Oil Corporation; Area and Unit Heads, other concerned officers and sanitation staff of the Shrine Board, prominent citizens, heads and students of various educational institutions besides pilgrims. Sh. Vinay Khajuria, ACF, SMVDSB, gave details of the activities organised during 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign.

CEO Shrine Board inaugurates 15-day winter sports coaching camp

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO of the Shrine Board inaugurated a 15-day annual winter sports coaching camp at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex at Katra on 24 December in which 160 students of various educational institutions of Reasi and the adjoining areas in the different age groups besides trainees of the Sports Complex are participating. They are being provided coaching by the highly experienced coaches in the disciplines of athletics, football, basketball and judo. Besides, advanced coaching is being given to the archers and shooters who are already undergoing training at the Sports Complex.



CEO Shrine Board with awardee sports persons

The CEO also felicitated the outstanding sports persons on the occasion who have won medals and prizes in various national and international level competitions.

Sh. Ashok Kumar, Director Sports, SMVDSB dwelt on the various sports events organized by the Shrine Board in the past months.

Jyoti Baliyan, Para Archer being trained at Shrine Board's Sports Complex won Silver Medal in the Asian Para Archery Championship held at Bangkok in October; Sunaina, another Archer won Gold Medal in the National School Games held at Ujjain MP in December and Vashu Sapolia, an Athlete won Silver Medal in Jr. National Athletics Championship at Tirupati in November. While Sneha won Gold Medal and cash award of Rs. 15,000 in marathon and Shivani won Bronze Medal and cash award of Rs. 10,000 in 10 km quarter marathon organized by J&K Police on 22 December, Anu won Gold Medal in UT level 6 km cross country race organized by J&K Athletics Association at Jammu on 24 December, Shruti, shooter got through for national level shooters eligible for pre-national trials, Pragya got selected as eligible shooter of India for pre-International Trials. Subashish, Sagar, Arun and Renu qualified as national shooters of India at the National Shooting Championship held at Bhopal during 8-20 December. 4 Archers receiving coaching at the Sports Complex – Dishant, Nikesa, Sunaina and Prawin were qualified for Khelo India Youth Games 2020, Guwahati.

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