



Trikuta

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Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

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President pays obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

The President of India, Sh. Ram Nath Kovind, accompanied by Smt. Savita Kovind, First Lady, visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on 10th June, 2022.

Alongwith Lt Governor, JK-UT and Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sh. Manoj Sinha, the President's entourage drove in a convoy of battery- operated cars to the Bhawan and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum. Sh. Kovind prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the people of the country.

During his brief visit, the President went around the Shrine Complex, viewed the facilities and met the pilgrims. He also waved to other pilgrims, who had queued up to have a glimpse of the First family



President Ram Nath Kovind at Mata Vaishno Devi Ji's Shrine.



The Lt Governor briefed the President about the continuing initiatives being taken for upgrading and expanding the infrastructure to cater to the progressively increasing number of pilgrims.

While on return, the President also visited the Bhairon Temple via Passenger Ropeway and appreciated the efforts made by the Board for pilgrims.

Pertinently this was President Ram Nath Kovind's second visit to Holy Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji after his first visit in the month of April 2018.

On arrival at the Panchhi Helipad from Jammu, the President was received by Sh. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board.

Chief Justice of India pays obeisance at Vaisho Devi

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana visited the holy cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi on 15 May and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum.

At Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board received the Chief Justice of India. The CEO mentioned about various infrastructure development initiatives taken and further arrangements being put in place by the Shrine Board for continuously improving the facilities for the visiting pilgrims.



Sh Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB presenting a memento to Sh. N V Ramana, Chief Justice of India.

LG chairs 69th Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the meeting of newly constituted Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, at Raj Bhavan on 12th April.

The meeting was attended by all members of SMVDSB – Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj; Baleshwar Rai; Dr Ashok Bhan; Kul Bhushan Ahuja; Dr. Neelam Sareen; K K Sharma; Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge) and Raghu K. Mehta.

The Lt Governor, who is also the Chairman of SMVDSB, while welcoming the members of the reconstituted board, complimented the efforts put-in by former members and lauded their commitment and valuable contributions.

During the meeting, the Board discussed and approved various proposals related to facilities for the devotees to make their pilgrimage hassle-free.

The new members of the Shrine Board gave their valuable suggestions for developing and continually upgrading the pilgrim-centric facilities.

“Efforts are being made to create modern facilities like skywalk, new Durga Bhawan, spiritual theme park and services such as RFID tag for devotees within a stipulated time-frame for the pleasant divine experience”, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor while reviewing the ongoing projects, directed for adhering to the timelines for the completion of all projects including Durga Bhawan. With the aim of avoiding congestion at Bhawan, inter-alia due to criss-crossing of pilgrims, it was decided to have multidirectional flow through measures such as “Yatra Queue Management (Sky Walk)” which would be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.9.89 cr.

The project to be executed through CPWD shall have a total length of 160-170 m



69th meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board held on 12th April 2022.

approx. and width of 2.5 m with two rescue areas. During the discussion regarding developing a Spiritual Theme Park in or around Katra, the Lt Governor observed that having such a facility would prolong the stay of pilgrims, giving a fillip to the town's economy. The Board asked the CEO to take expeditious steps for early start of the Theme Park.

A brief appraisal of peripheral institutions like SMVDNS Hospital, SMVD College of Nursing, SMVD Gurukul and SMVD Sports Complex was presented in the meeting. The board expressed deep satisfaction over the management initiatives and functioning of these institutions towards welfare of the public at large. The Lt Governor emphasized that the board may not be driven by profit considerations, yet, adequate steps must be undertaken to make these institutions self-sustaining.

The Board expressed satisfaction over the recently augmented Pilgrim Centric facilities of Niharika Complex of Shrine Board at Katra and approved additional construction of staff accommodation at Katra and Adhkuwari. Reviewing the proposals relating to Slope Stabilization Project, the Lt Governor directed that rather than going in a phased

manner, the entire stabilization work must be duly assessed and executed in one go. The Annual Greening Plan for the year 2022-23 was also reviewed and approved by the Board.

The proposal of the passenger ropeway between Katra and Adhkuwari for the benefit of pilgrims, particularly the senior citizens, was also discussed in the meeting. The board expressed a unanimous view that this added facility for pilgrims would certainly be a boon for senior citizens and specially abled pilgrims and would benefit the local businesses and entrepreneurs.

While approving the proposals relating to Operation & Maintenance of Passenger Ropeway through M/s Garaventa AG, Switzerland and M/s Damodar Ropeways Construction Co. (P) Ltd, Kolkata, the Board asked the CEO to ensure that there is no let up as regards to the safety of passengers and routine safety audits be conducted as per SOP.

The board reviewed the Master Plan of Bhawan area, various underway projects, yatra statistics & trends and emphasized for timely completion of augmenting the facilities for pilgrims.

Earlier, Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, SMVD Shrine Board gave a presentation on the to-date status of different activities and action taken in regard to implementation of various decisions of the Board taken at the previous meetings.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Navneet Singh, Additional Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB and other senior officers of SMVDSB also attended the meeting.

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya marks the onset of 'Chaitra Navratra' at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and performance of other religious ceremonies, Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji commenced 2nd April on the auspicious occasion of beginning of Chaitra Navratras. The Maha Yagya marks the onset of the nine-day long 'Chaitra Navratra' festival, which is being performed at the Holy Cave Shrine for peace, prosperity and health of humanity, will conclude with Purna Ahuti on Mahanavami.



Decoration of Bhawan during 'Chaitra Navratra'

Mr. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; other officers of the Shrine Board and a large number of pilgrims were present on the

occasion. The Yagya ceremony was telecasted live on MH1 Shradha from 11.30 AM to 1.00 PM daily during Navratras.

The Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Atka and the area surrounding it had been profusely decorated with flowers during the Navratras. The decorations were made with indigenous-foreign fruits and flowers, as well as huge reception doors and pandals, etc. were installed in the Bhawan Area. Likewise, the illumination of the Bhawan area with attractive and colourful lights was done. The breathtaking and festive decorations were a special visual delight for pilgrims who trek about 12km from Katra to Bhawan.



Floral decoration of outer cave during 'Chaitra Navratra'

The Shrine Board had also made elaborate arrangements for facilitating a large number of pilgrims who were expected to pay their obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum during Navratras. These arrangements include ensuring round the clock water and power supply all along the tracks leading to the Shrine, sanitation and sanitisation, availability of special "fast related" food at the Board's Bhojanalaya etc. Besides, all the routes leading to the Holy Cave Shrine were fully maintained for smooth movement of pilgrims.

The CEO Shrine Board constantly reviewed and monitored the regulation of Yatra along with other arrangements all along the track and in the Bhawan Area and

interacting with the pilgrims enquiring about the facilities made by the Shrine Board for their facilitation.

Anshul Garg Takes over as Chief Executive Officer of SMVD Shrine Board; bids farewell to Ramesh Kumar

Mr. Anshul Garg, on 7th May took over the charge of the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board from Mr. Ramesh Kumar, the outgoing CEO, who has been posted as Divisional Commissioner, Jammu.

Later, the officers and staff of the Shrine Board organised an impressive function to bid farewell to Mr. Ramesh Kumar, the outgoing CEO, and to welcome Mr. Anshul Garg, the new CEO of the Shrine Board.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ramesh Kumar spoke about achievements despite the hardships of Pandemic during his tenure. He recalled many works completed, ongoing and in pipeline and a number of initiatives for facilitation of the pilgrims. He thanked all the officers and staff of the Shrine Board for their support and cooperation and hoped that their efforts to bring about continuing improvements in the facilities for the pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji will surely succeed.



Sh. Anshul Garg Taking over as Chief Executive Officer of SMVD Shrine Board

Mr. Anshul Garg in his address said that serving again in Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board is a lifetime opportunity and a

blessing indeed. He assured that he will carry forward the exemplary work done by the earlier CEOs with support and cooperation of one and all to ensure that the pilgrims are largely facilitated. Noteworthy, that Mr. Anshul Garg also served the Board as Addl. CEO, SMVDSB during the year 2017-18.

Mr. Anshul Garg on this occasion also presented a customary memento to Mr. Ramesh Kumar and extended best wishes to him.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board condoles death of ex-member

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has condoled the sad demise of former member Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, an eminent Santoor player and internationally celebrated Indian music composer on 10th May.

Paying homage, Mr. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board recalled Ex-Member's long association with the board from the year 2015 to 2019 and his significant contributions for the creation of pilgrim-centric facilities.

Some of the major achievements of the Board in infrastructure development during his tenure interalia, include commissioning of major projects like SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, SMVD Sports Complex and SMVD College of Nursing besides, several new facilities for the convenience of the visiting pilgrims such as Passenger ropeway from Bhawan to Bharion, material ropeway from Siar Dabri to Bhawan, alternate Tarakote Marg from Katra to Adhkuwari and Re-modelling project of Adhkuwari.

The board also extended deepest condolences to his family.

Shrine Board staffs pays homage to Lt. Shri Amir Chand, Head Priest

The officers and staff of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board condoled the

demise of Shri Amir Chand, Head Priest at the revered Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine who passed away at his home at Katra due to cardiac arrest on Saturday and cremation was held on the same day at Banganga.



Condolence meeting to pay homage to Lt. Shri Amir Chand, Aarti Pujari

In this connection, a condolence meeting was held at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra on 23rd May, in which Sh. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; other officers and staff of the Shrine Board participated. A two-minute silence was observed to pay homage to the departed soul.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha who is also the Chairman of SMVDSB visited the residence of Lt. Shri Amir Chand to convey his condolences to the bereaved family.

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

Mr. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB on 13th May inspected the major projects that are underway for the enhancement of infrastructure facilities for the yatra to the holy cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and directed officials to expedite progress of all ongoing works including construction of Durga Bhawan. He was accompanied by Addl. CEO, Dy. CEOs, Prof. Mandeep Singh from the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, other concerned engineers and officers of the Shrine Board.

The CEO while reviewing the to-date status of project impressed upon all the concerned engineers that high priority needs to be laid to ensure speedy implementation of the infrastructure facilities and timely completion of Durga Bhawan so that the pilgrims could take benefit of this facility in the upcoming Navrataras.

He called for making coordinated efforts while executing construction work without any hindrance to the yatra in a planned and holistic manner. It was emphasised that while carrying out the work safety must be ensured.

CEO also took stock of the construction of “Yatra Queue Management (Sky Walk)” which is approved in the recent Board meeting with the aim of avoiding congestion at Bhawan, criss-crossing of pilgrims and to have multidirectional flow as per design by SPA. The Sky Walk shall have a total length of 160-170 m approx. and width of 2.5 m with 02 Rescue areas. The project shall be executed through CPWD.

Earlier, CEO chaired a meeting at Bhawan with the representative from SPA, CPWD and concerned engineers and officers of the Shrine Board.



Inspection of upcoming projects at Bhawan by CEO

Besides, CEO also inspected other arrangements interalia included round the clock water and power supply, catering, healthcare facilities, sanitisation, cleanliness and regulation of yatra.



LG attends Lamp Lighting Ceremony of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing Dedicates new general ward of Narayana Hospital to public

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony of 5th & 6th Batch of B.Sc. Nursing students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN) at Matrika Auditorium of SMVDU on 25th May.

Sh. Baleshwar Rai, Dr. Neelam Sareen, Sh. Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd.) Judge, Sh. Raghu K. Mehta – Members of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Dr. Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU were present on the occasion which also marked the 4th Annual Day function of SMVDCoN.



Inauguration of new 45 bedded ward at SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital.

Earlier, on his arrival at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, the Lt Governor inaugurated a new 45-bedded General Ward of the hospital equipped with latest medical equipments and dedicated the facility to public.

During his address at the Lamp Lighting Ceremony of SMVDCoN, the Lt Governor congratulated the students embarking on a new journey, and urged them to improve the quality of life and quality of care with dedication and compassion.

Highlighting the efforts of the Government to transform the health sector in

J&K, the Lt Governor said that in the last three years, we have made adequate investment for medical education and training to protect and promote people's health.

He observed that the lamp lighting and oath-taking ceremony is a perfect tribute to "Florence Nightingale"- the founder of modern nursing and congratulated the management, faculty and staff of College of Nursing on the occasion.

The Lieutenant Governor also recalled many initiatives taken by the Shrine Board including online darshan, home delivery of Prasad, Call Centre, E-Library, Hi-tech Video Wall, Helicopter Service, Battery Car Service, Passenger Ropeway, Pony Service, besides water conservation and sanitation measures.



Group photo of students and faculty of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing during Lamp Lighting Ceremony.

The projects like Durga Bhavan, Sky Walk, RFID Project, Theme Park, and Shankaracharya Temple will make the pilgrimage of devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi more convenient and memorable, he added.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor presented awards to the best-performing students of SMVDCoN and SMVD Gurukul who excelled in academics and co-curricular activities during the past two years. Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge), 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, besides 100%



placement of the passing out students in various renowned institutions.

Mukesh Singh, ADGP, Jammu, Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu were also present on the occasion.

8th International Yoga Day Shrine Board organizes Yog Divas at Sports Complex

To mark the celebration of the 8th International Day of Yoga, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in collaboration with Patanjali Yogpeeth organized the Yog Divas on 21st June at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports Complex, Katra in sync with celebrations in other parts of India and practitioners across the world.

Prior to its commencement Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB Mr. Anshul Garg finalised the arrangements made for organising the International Yoga Day at Katra, at a meeting of the officers of Shrine Board and representatives of Patanjali Yogpeeth on 18th June.



Celebration of 8th International Yoga Day at Sports Complex

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports Complex, Katra was among 75 historical and iconic places chosen in the country as part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebrations as this being the base town for

the pilgrimage to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest of event Mr. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB said that Yoga has served humanity in mitigating sufferings during the COVID-19 Pandemic as it does wonders for our physical and mental health. Besides, added that the Shrine Board is assisting the Government in all its initiatives in Sports, health and wellness for the betterment of mankind and society at large.

The Yog Divas, with the theme 'Yoga for Humanity' was attended by employees of the Board including Addl. Chief Executive Officer, Jt. Chief Executive Officers and Dy. Chief Executive Officers besides sportspersons of the Sports Complex, prominent citizens and hundreds of local residents from all walks of life. Starting from 6:30 AM, the event concluded at 7:30 AM. The participants performed a series of Yogasanas in unison towards better health and wellness for all under the supervision of yoga experts following Common Yoga Protocol (CYP).



Yogasanas performed at Sports Complex

It is being organized on a regular basis in the Shrine Board's Sports Complex after inauguration of the facility by Hon'ble Prime Minister in the year 2014.

The yoga sessions were also organised at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Sanjichhat and Bhairon as part of the celebration of International Yoga Day.

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