

जय माता दी



# Administrative Report 2017-18



**SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD**





## Administrative Report 2017-18

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### ABOUT SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The world renowned Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji, nestled in the Trikuta Hills in Katra, is one of the most revered shrines and holiest pilgrimages, where the devotees of the Divine Mother have been paying their obeisance from within the country and beyond since centuries past. In the Sanctum Sanctorum, the pilgrims are blessed with the *darshan* of Mother Goddess in the shape of three natural rock formations called the Holy *Pindies*.
- 1.2. It is believed that the three Holy Pindies are the manifestations of the Mother Goddess viz. Mata Maha Kali, Mata Maha Lakshmi and Mata Maha Saraswati. Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji is considered to be an incarnation of these three Supreme Energies. A holy stream of water gushes out from the base of the Holy *Pindies* and flows along the Holy Cave. This water has been channelized to a Bathing Ghat where pilgrims take bath before proceeding for *darshan* of the Holy *Pindies*.



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### 2. Establishment of the Shrine Board

- 2.1 Prior to the formation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in 1986, the pilgrimage to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine was managed by the Dharmarth Trust and the then Baridars. Due to lack of infrastructural development in spite of progressive increase in the number of Yatris and donation, a need was felt to institutionalise the entire management of Shrine. As such, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act was enacted for infrastructural development and pilgrim centred facilities and logistical arrangements to meet the immediate and long term goals of catering to steadily rising number of pilgrims.
- 2.2 Since the establishment of Shrine Board in 1986 considerable development has taken place in this geographically challenging terrain. The Shrine Board has since inception put in enormous human and material resources for ensuring the latest facilities for the pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine.
- 2.3 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.



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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.

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



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### 3. Constitution of the Board as on 31-03-2018

**CHAIRMAN:** Shri N. N. Vohra, Governor, J&K (June 2008 - ).

**MEMBERS:**

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





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### **Profile of Hon'ble Chairman**

**N. N. Vohra:** Governor J&K (June 2008 - ) and Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (June 2008 - ). Educated at the Punjab and Oxford Universities. Member of the Indian Administrative Service (1959-1994). Recipient of Padma Vibhushan (2007) and several other awards. Author of "Safeguarding India"; has been writing and lecturing on issues relating to Governance and National Security.

### **Profile of Hon'ble Board Members**

#### **Dr. E. Sreedharan, Principal Advisor, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation**

Dr. Sreedharan, former Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, is fondly called the "Wheel of the Nation" for his tireless work in building the Konkan Railway and for his outstanding achievement in establishing the Delhi Metro before the scheduled date. In 2008, he was honoured with Padma Vibhushan, for his most outstanding services to the nation and in 2013, he was awarded "the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star" by the Government of Japan. Besides, he has been awarded about 16 Honorary Doctorate degrees by many prestigious institutions/ Universities.

#### **Smt. Sudha Murty, Chairperson, Infosys Foundation**

Smt. Sudha Murty, is Chairperson of the well known Infosys Foundation which she set up in 1996. M. Tech in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, she has been very actively contributing to the social upliftment of the poor and the neglected, under the aegis of Infosys Foundation. A philanthropist, teacher, prolific writer and columnist, Smt. Murty is a recipient of the Padma Shri Award (in 2006).

#### **Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary, J&K**

Credited with a distinguished administrative career in the IAS, Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria, had earlier served in the Army. Before taking over as the Chief Secretary of



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Jammu and Kashmir, he has served as Director, Enforcement Directorate, in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Later he served as Vice Chancellor of the Central University, Jammu (August 2011 to August 2014). Awarded a Ph. D. in 1995 for his research on "The Battle of Zoji La-1948", Dr. Bloeria is the author of several well known books such as "Pakistan's Insurgency and India's Security", "The Dying Terrorism" and "The Men Who Served Jammu and Kashmir".

### **Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, eminent Santoor Maestro**

Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, an internationally acclaimed Santoor maestro, has the distinction of bringing about the elevation of this folk instrument from the Valley of Kashmir to its present classical status. For his vast achievements, many prestigious national and international awards have been conferred upon Pt. Sharma, including Sangeet Natak Akademi award (1986) and Padma Vibhushan (2001).

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

An IPS officer of the 1976 batch, Dr. Bhan has served as Director General of Police, J&K and later as a Member of the National Security Advisory Board. He is a recipient of several distinguished awards including President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister's Medal for Honesty, Integrity and Meritorious Public Service and Paul Appleby Award for Distinguished Services to Public Administration.

### **Shri H. L. Maini, former Managing Director, J&K PCC**

Shri H. L. Maini, Technical Consultant to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, has remained closely associated with various developmental activities of the Shrine Board since its inception. Shri Maini has been serving the Board for over 30 years and has been instrumental in overseeing the infrastructural development on and along the tracks, especially the construction of Himkoti track from Adhkuwari to Bhawan and the new tunnel at Bhawan to facilitate devotees.



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### **Shri Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli, former Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court**

Shri Justice Permod Kohli has earlier served as Legal Advisor to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. He has also served at the High Courts of Jharkhand and Punjab & Haryana before being elevated as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim in 2011. Shri Justice Kohli assumed charge of the office of Chairman, Central Administrative Tribunal in 2016. For his distinguished services in the field of Law, he was conferred Degree of Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) (Honoris Causa) by Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak in 2017.

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

Maj. Gen. Shiv Kumar Sharma, AVSM (Retd.) has served the Indian Army for over 36 years. Having pursued super specialization in communication engineering from USA and Hungary, he has the experience of heading Post Graduate institutions in Army and in the civil set up for over 10 years. For his distinguished services, he has been awarded Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) by President of India, Commendation by Governor of Gujarat and Commendation by Chief of Army Staff.

### **Shri Bharat Bhushan Vyas, IAS, Chief Secretary, J&K:**

Shri Bharat Bhushan Vyas is an IAS officer of 1986 batch and is presently serving as Chief Secretary, J&K Government. Shri Vyas has rich and varied experience in banking, finance, agriculture, disaster management and administration. He has also served for three years in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) overseeing "livelihood-based" projects. Shri Vyas has been recipient of "Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration" twice in the year 2008 and 2012. He has also been awarded with the Chief Minister's Gold Medal for Honesty, Integrity and Meritorious Public Service.



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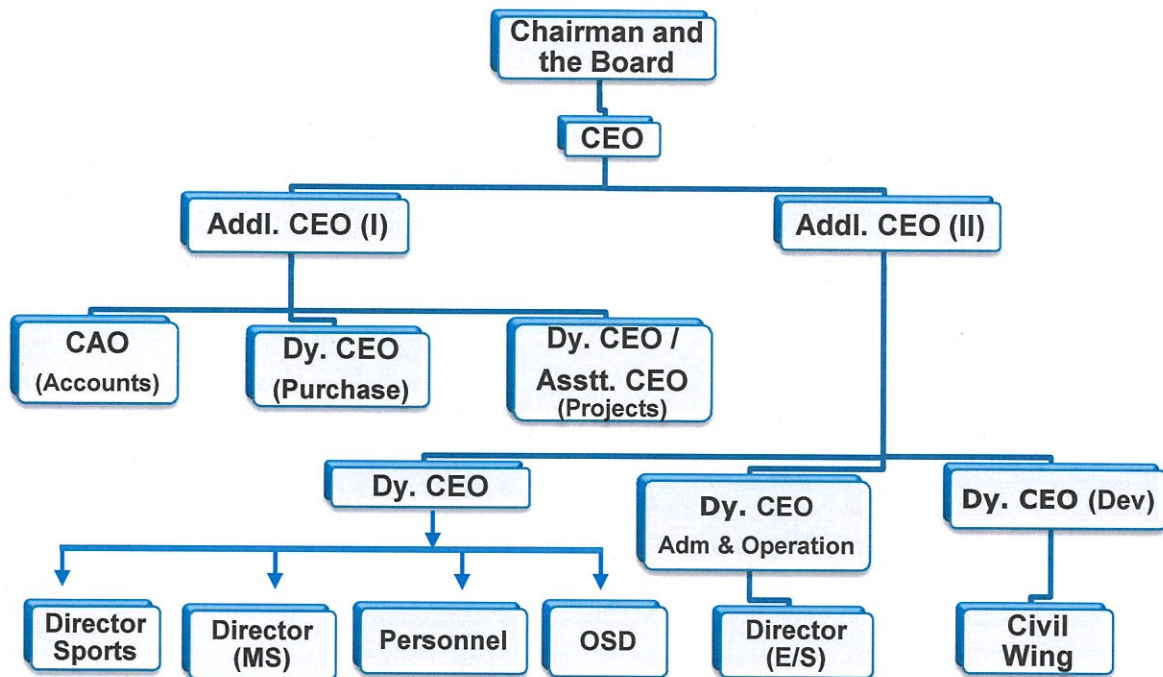
### Officers of the Board as on 31-03-2018

- Shri Ajeet Kumar Sahu, IAS, Chief Executive Officer (21 May 2015 - 21 August 2017).
- Shri Jitendra Kumar Singh, IAS, Chief Executive Officer (24 August 2017 - 30 November 2017).
- Shri Umang Narula, IAS, Chief Executive Officer (30 November 2017 - ).
- Dr. M. K. Kumar, IFS, Additional Chief Executive Officer (18 April 2014 - ).
- Dr. Piyush Singla, IAS, Additional Chief Executive Officer (01 February 2016 - 9 June 2017).
- Shri Anshul Garg, IAS, Additional Chief Executive Officer (05 June 2017 - ).
- Shri Pankaj Gupta, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (29 August 2013 - ).
- Shri Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer (21 December 2015 - ).
- Shri Devinder Singh Bhau, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (29 August 2013 - 5 July 2017).
- Dr. Arvind Karwani, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (21 December 2015 - ).
- Shri Amit Vermani, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (06 April 2015 - ).
- Shri Deepak Dubey, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (3 July 2017 - ).
- Shri Manu Hansa, Assistant Chief Executive Officer (01 February 2016 - ).



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### ORGANISATIONAL SETUP



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



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### 4. Yatra during the period

4.1 During the calendar year 2017, a total of 81,78,318 pilgrims visited the Shrine, an increase of 4,54,597 in comparison to the previous year (2016).

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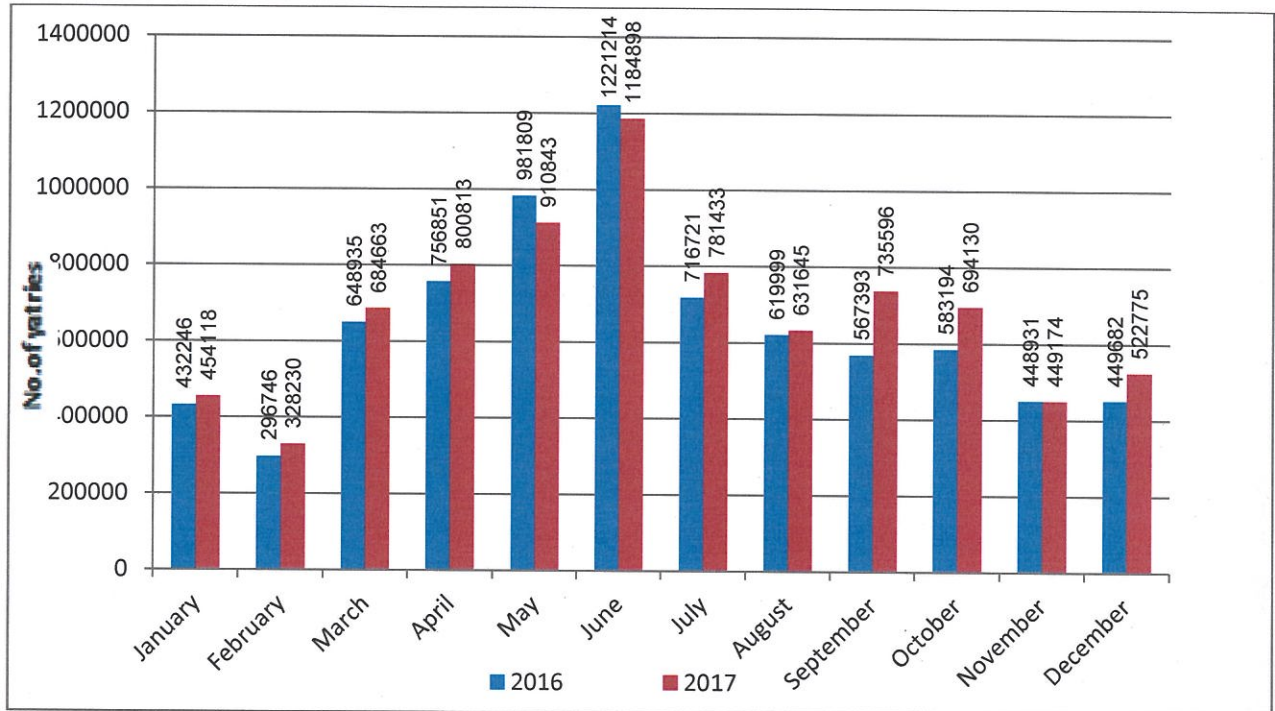
25	2010	87,49,326
26	2011	1,01,15,647
27	2012	1,04,95,269
28	2013	93,23,647
29	2014	78,03,193
30	2015	77,76,604
31	2016	77,23,721
32	2017	81,78,318

### Month Wise Yatra comparison 2016 v/s 2017

Month	2016 No. of Yatris	2017 No. of Yatris
January	432246	454118
February	296746	328230
March	648935	684663
April	756851	800813
May	981809	910843
June	1221214	1184898
July	716721	781433
August	619999	631645
September	567393	735596
October	583194	694130
November	448931	449174
December	449682	522775
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,23,721</b>	<b>81,78,318</b>



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The largest number of pilgrims who visited the Shrine was during June, 2017. The months of April, May and June are the peak season of the pilgrimage while the lean period is during November to February.

Yatris travel by various modes, as detailed below:

### 4.2 Helicopter Services

The one-way passenger fare for heli-travel between Katra and Sanjichhat is Rs. 1005/- per passenger (inclusive of all taxes). These rates are fixed after a transparent bidding process. The successful bidders i.e. M/s Global Vectra Helicorp Ltd. and M/s Himalayan Heli Services Pvt. Ltd. are operating the heli-services. Heli bookings can be made on-line two months in advance and are also available on current ticket counters where preference is generally given to senior citizens and specially-abled pilgrims. A total of 5,70,148 yatris availed this service in the year 2017-18.





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### **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 a.m. to 8 p.m., which varies due to yatra numbers. The charges per passenger for 30 minute journey from Adhkuwari to Bhawan and from Bhawan to Adhkuwari are Rs. 300/- and Rs. 200/- respectively. The booking for Battery Car service is available only through current counters both at Adhkuwari and at Manokamna Bhawan. A total of 2,35,110 pilgrims used this facility in the year 2017-18.

### **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.

### **4.5 Palkis**

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

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



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S. No.	Mode	Destination	Charges (Rs.)	Remarks
1.	Ponies	Katra-Bhawan	700/-	One way
2.	Pithoo	Katra to Bhawan and back	700/-	To and Fro
3.	Palki	Katra to Bhawan and back	4000/-	To and Fro

### 4.6 Auspicious periods of Navratras

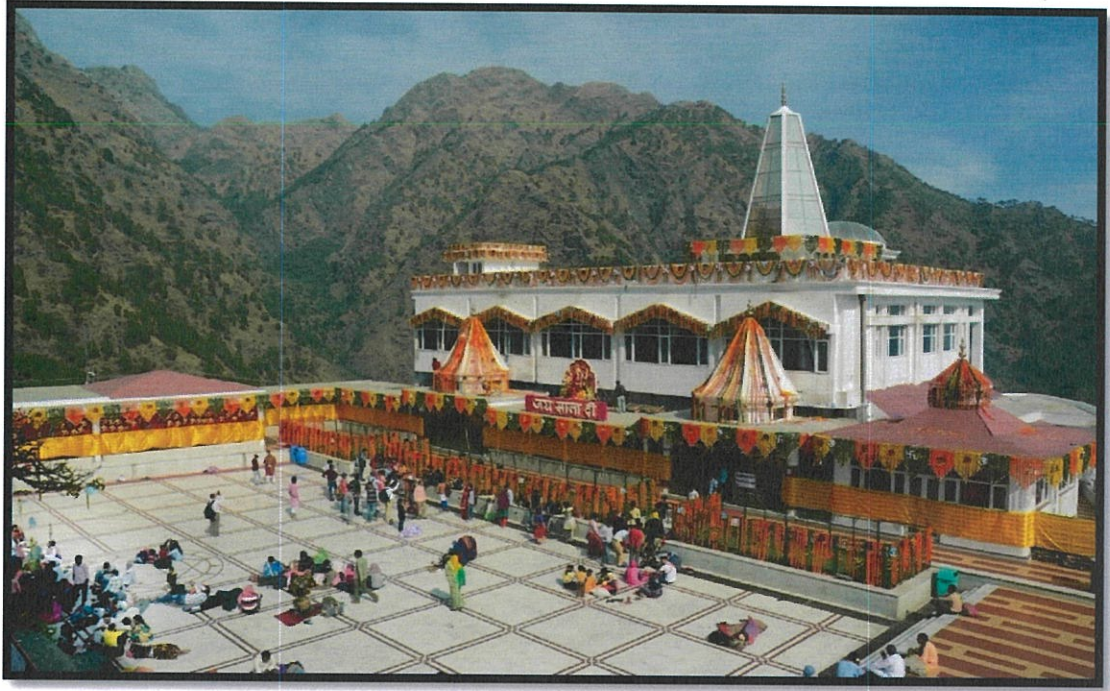
The most auspicious periods of Navratras both in September and March witnessed a heavy rush of pilgrims and to facilitate the increasing number of yatris the Shrine Board made special arrangements. These included decorating the Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Atka and the area surrounding it with flowers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



Profusely decorated Bhawan and Atka during Navratras



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A view of Adhkuwari Temple during Navratras

### **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 in the winter months from the start of the queue at Gate No. 3 upto the Holy Cave.

### **4.8 Opening of Natural Cave**

The natural Cave was opened for pilgrims on Makar Sankranti by performing special pooja. The SDM Bhawan was authorised to regulate the darshan through natural Cave considering the rush and congestion at Bhawan to avoid any inconvenience to the pilgrims. During 2017-18 as many as 91,594 pilgrims had darshan via the natural Cave.



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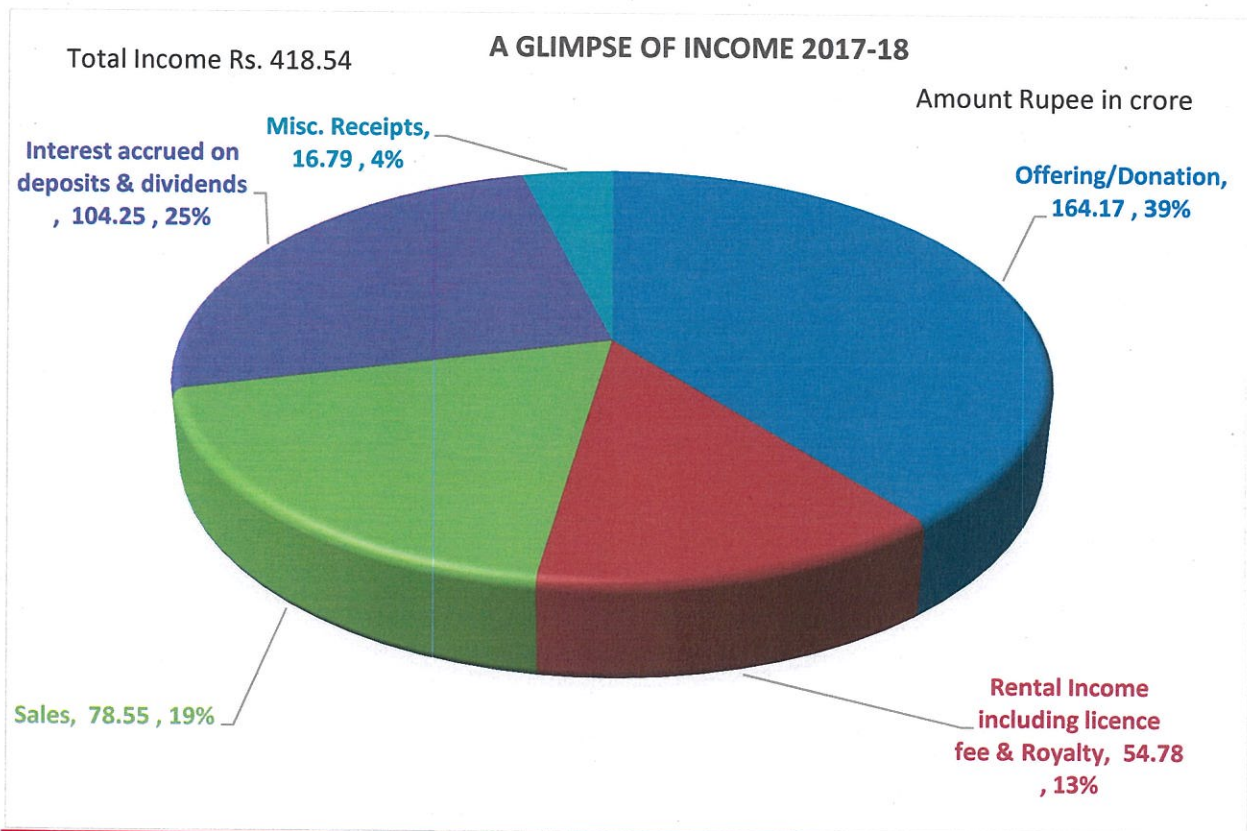
Pilgrims having darshan via the natural Cave



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### 5. Income and Expenditure

Income during FY 2017-18		
S. No.	Items	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	Offerings/Donation	164.17
2	Rental Income including licence fee & Royalty	54.78
3	Sales	78.55
4	Interest accrued on deposits & dividends	104.25
5	Misc. Receipts	16.79
		<b>418.54</b>

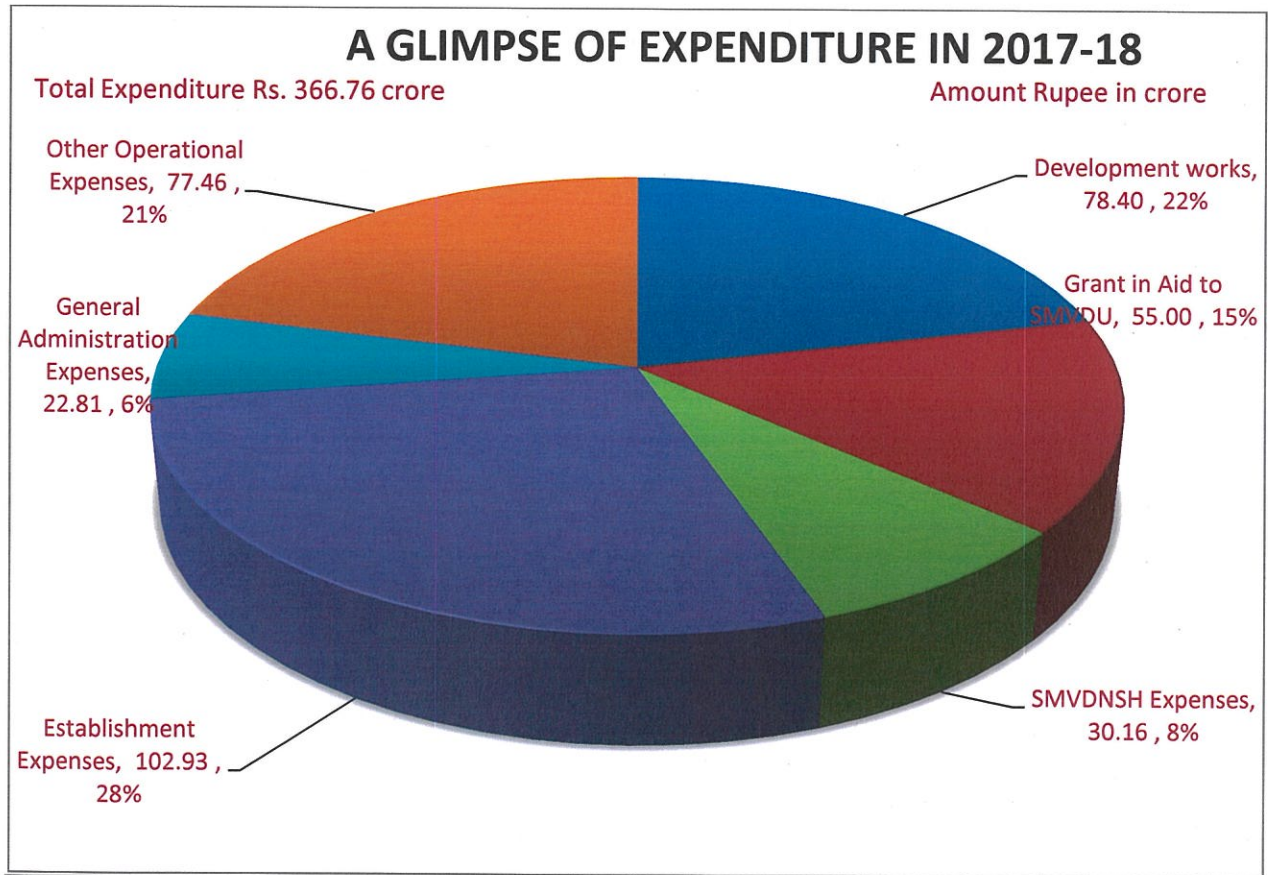


**Note: The figures shown in the pie chart are Pre-Audited and are subject to change after finalisation of Audit for the F.Y. 2017-18**



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Expenditure during FY 2017-18		
S. No.	Items	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	Development works	78.40
2	Grant in Aid to SMVDU	55.00
3	SMVDNSH Expenses	30.16
4	Establishment Expenses	102.93
5	General Administration Expenses	22.81
6	Other operational expenses	77.46
<b>Total</b>		<b>366.76</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. 2017-18**



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### **6. Audit Report**

The Statutory Audit of the Shrine Board's Accounts for FY 2016-17 was conducted by M/s S. R. Batliboi & Co. The Board noted the Audit observations raised in the Notes to Accounts and adopted the Balance Sheet for the Financial Year 2016-17 in the 62<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting held on 16-03-2018. As per Board's decision, it is ensured that every Audit observation is settled on a time bound basis. The Statutory Audit for the Financial Year 2017-18 is in progress and is expected to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018.



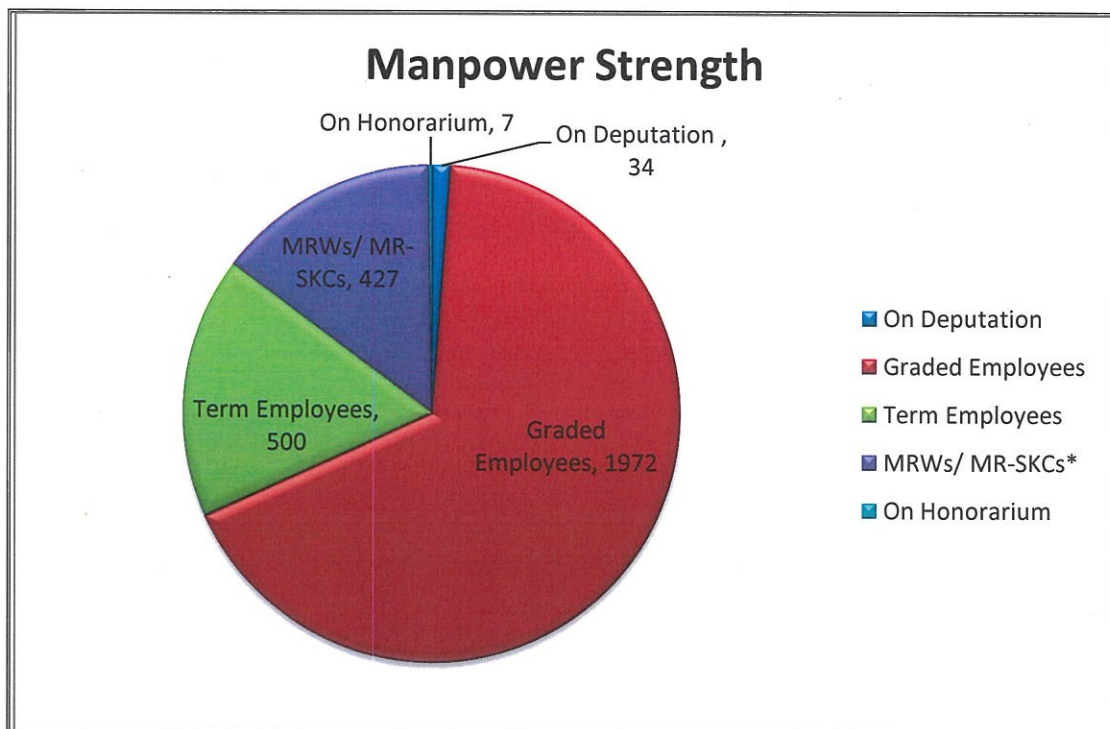
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### 7. Human Resource Management

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

- **Strength as on 31.03.2018**

Type of Employment	Manpower Strength
On Deputation	34
Graded Employees	1972
Term Employees	500
MRWs/ MR-SKCs*	427
On Honorarium	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2940</b>



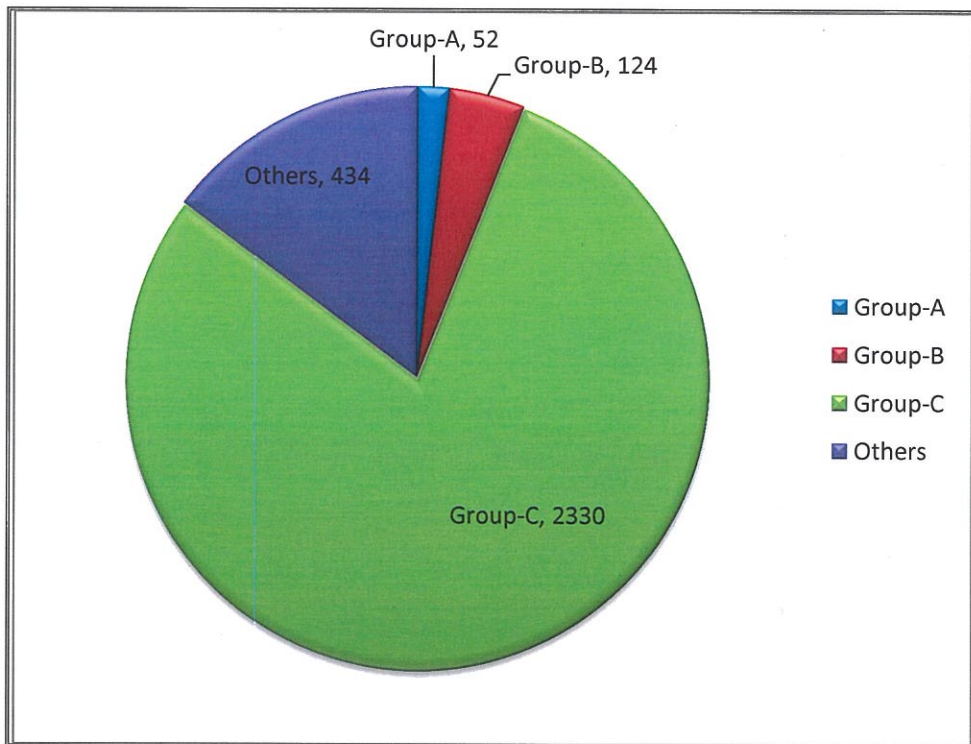
\* Muster Roll Workers/Muster Roll Safaikaramcharis





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<b>Group wise Manpower Strength</b>	
Group-A	52
Group-B	124
Group-C	2330
Others	434
<b>Total</b>	<b>2940</b>



- During April 2017 to March 2018, 88 employees joined the Board under various categories as under:

On Deputation : 10

On Term Employment : 78



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- During financial year 2017-18, 61 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	6	7	0	0	13
2	On Superannuation	0	0	1	1	02
3	On Resignation	6	6	20	0	32
4	Death	0	0	6	0	6
5	Other reasons	2	3	3	0	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>61</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. It enhances capacities of employees which leads to better performance and outcomes.

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 has also approved an annual allocation of Rs. 100.00 lakhs for carrying out the skill up-gradation programmes for its employees.



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Shrine Board employees participating in a capacity building training programme

Various domain experts and national level institutes/ agencies such as National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were approached for imparting quality training programmes in their respective domains.

A total of 74 trainings were organized during the period from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2018, covering different categories of employees. Besides capacity building programmes, workshops, seminars, conferences benefiting 2092 employees on diverse subjects including service providers and school children were also conducted.



Shrine Board staff receiving training in IT enabled services

It is significant to mention here that the year 2017 was a landmark in its own as a huge paradigm shift has taken place in augmenting the skill set by providing training to different categories of employees in SMVDSB.

### 7.3 Training Programmes conducted in 2017-18

<b>Category wise Training Programmes</b>				
S. No.	Name of the training programme	Training institute/ faculty	Location/ venue	No. of participants
1	Training Programme on Basic Computer Skills	NIELIT, Jammu	NIELIT, Jammu	99
2	Training Programme on Basic Life Support	Dr. Nandita Mehta, ASCOMS	SGC Katra	176
3	Training Programme on Health & Hygiene for female employees	Inhouse Medical Officer, SMVDSB	SGC, Katra	203
4	Training Programme in GIS	ESRI India Technologies Ltd, Gurgaon	ESRI India Technologies Ltd, Gurgaon	2



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5	Training Programme on Basic Disaster Management	Master Trainers of SMVDSB	Bhawan	40
6	Training Programme on Finance for Non Finance Executives	IIM, Calcutta	Management Development Centre (MDC), IIM Calcutta	3
7	Training Programme on Defensive Driving Skills	Sh. V.K. Bakshi, Jamkash Maruti Driving School	Jamkash Maruti Driving School	7
8	Creating Impact Through Powerfull Presentations and Interpersonal Communication Skills	IIM, Calcutta	Management Development Centre (MDC), IIM Calcutta	3
9	Training Programme on "AC & Refrigeration: Service & Maintenance"	NIELIT, Jammu	NIELIT, Jammu	8
10	Training Programme on Basic Disaster Management	DMTF Master Trainers	SGC, Katra	212
11	Training Programme on Converting People from Resources to Assets by Developing Human Potential	Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat (IRMA)	Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat (IRMA)	3
12	Training Programme on Purchase Management	Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat (IRMA)	Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat (IRMA)	2
13	One week Compulsory Training Course on Bamboo / Wood Resource Development & Value Addition for Sustained Livelihood	IPIRTI, Bangalore	IPIRTI, Bangalore	1
14	Training Programme on Disaster Management	NDRF, Bhatinda	Bhawan	40
15	On-Site inhouse Training Programme on Basic Life Support	Medical Officers & Paramedical Staff of SMVDSB	SGC, Katra	170



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16	Trg. Prog on Handling of Cash Registrex Machines	Shivangi Enterprises Pvt. Ltd New Delhi	SGC, Katra	40
17	Trg. Prog on Inventory Management	Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat (IRMA)	Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat (IRMA)	4
18	Training cum Orientation Session for all Area Heads of Mobile App "Eyatri"	Dr. Naveen Kumar Gondhi, Asstt. Professor, SMVDU	Conference Hall, SGC	17
19	Training Programme on Art of Living	Vyakti Vikas Kendra	Aashirward Complex, Niharika Katra	90
20	Training Programme on Construction Safety	Safety Circle Pvt. Ltd, Chandigarh	SGC, Katra	50
21	Training Programme on "Advanced Cardiac Life Support Training"	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	SMVDNSH, Kakryal	2
22	Yog Shivar for Stress Management and Good Health	Bansi Lal, Patanjali	Bhawan	100
23	Training-Cum-Demonstration Programme on Agarbatti making from used flowers	CSIR-CIMAP, Sh. R. K. Srivastava	SGC, Katra	20
24	Training Programme in House Wiring & Repair & Maintenance of Home Appliances	NIELIT, Jammu	NIELIT, Jammu	8
25	37th Refresher Course for Pandits / Pujaris of SMVD Shrine Board	SMVD Gurukul	SMVD Gurukul	20
26	Training Programme on Operation & Maintenance of Fire Fighting Vehicles	Tek Chand & Sons, New Delhi	Sports Stadium, Katra	25
27	Training Programme on E-Tendering Procedures	National Informatics Centre, Jammu	Conference Hall, Central Office, Katra	36
28	Capacity Development Programme and Mock Exercise	Brig. (Dr.) BK Khanna, SM, VSM (Retd.), Chairman,	Adhkuwari & Bhawan	60



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		Crisis and DM services		
29	Training-cum-Workshop on Agarbatti making from used flowers	Dr. R.K. Srivastavam CSIR-CIMAP	SGC Katra	20
30	Training Programme on "Handling of Biometric Time & Attendance Systems"	Infitel Systems Pvt. Ltd	SGC, Katra	41
31	Training Programme on Strategic Inventory Management	IRMA Anand Gujarat	Anand, Gujarat	3
32	Camp of Female Employees for Proposed DMTF	In-House DMTF Members & Medical Officers	Sports Stadium, Katra	169
33	Orientation-cum-Training Programme for Newly Recruited " Jr. Managers"	In-House Experts	SGC & Various track locations	31
34	Training Programme for the Electricians of SMVD Shrine Board	Er. Suket Gupta, Principal	Govt. Polytechnic College, Reasi	10
35	Training Programme for the Plumbers of SMVD Shrine Board	Er. Suket Gupta, Principal	Govt. Polytechnic College, Reasi	9
36	Camp of Disaster Management Task Force at Shrine Board Sports Complex Katra	Team of Civil Defense Reasi, Experts from SDRF Jammu, Brig. B.K.Khanna, Col. P.K.Pathak and Inhouse Master Trainers	Sports Stadium, Katra	92
37	National Level Training Programme on Safety Accident Prevention & Disaster Management for C&D Grp level employees	DTTIC Wing, J&K PDD through RECIPMT, Hyderabad	Conference Hall, SGC, Katra	5
38	Training Programme on "Learning to Read Behavioural Evidence: HR Analytics for	IIM Indore - Prof. Srinath Jagannathan, Prog. Coordinator	IIM Indore	2



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	Organizational Excellence			
39	Training Programme for Sanitation Supervisors of SMVD Shrine Board	Organica Biotech Pvt Ltd, Mumbai	Mumbai	4
40	Joint Exercise on Fire Fighting	Local Stake Holders as identified by Tehsildar, Katra	Sports Stadium, Katra	10
41	Training Programme on School Safety (Govt Middle School Sanjichhat)	Safety Circle Pvt Ltd, Chandigarh	Sanjichhat	85
42	Capacity Building Programme for service providers (pony owners, pithoos & palkiwalas)	Sahyog India (Brooke's India) - Dr. D. R. Kapoor & Dr. Surinder Raina, Asstt. Surgeon, Banganga	Auditorium, SGC	80
43	Workshop on Preventive Conservation of Manuscripts	Dr. Suresh Abrol President, Shashvat Art Gallery	Kalakendra, Jammu	2
44	Awareness Programme on Source Waste Management	State Pollution Control Board, Jammu	Conference Hall, Central Office, Katra	28
45	Deputation of a team of officers from SMVD Shrine Board to CSIR-CIMAP Lucknow	CSIR-CIMAP Lucknow	Lucknow	2
46	Conference of United Nations on Disaster Risk Reduction		Cancun, Mexico	1
47	02 Days conference on Crowd Management	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	1
48	FIRE INDIA	Conference	Bombay Convention & Exhibition Centre, NSE NESCO Complex, Mumbai	3
49	Deputation of officers to attend the "HADR SEMINAR"	Air Force Station, Jammu	Air Force Station, Jammu	2
50	HADR Seminar	Air Force Station Jammu	Air Force Station Jammu	2





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51	Mock Drill / Physical Test of DMTF members		Sports Stadium	48
52	06 weeks Certificate Course in Sports Coaching	KIIT University Bhubaneswar	KIIT University, Bhubaneswar	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>2092</b>

### **7.4 Staff Welfare:**

During the FY 2017-18, various normal HR/Staff welfare activities were undertaken by the Board so as to ensure that the Human Resource of the Shrine Board remains critically aligned to organizational priorities. The following are some of the highlights of the HR initiatives taken during the period 2017-18:

- Promotions : 61
- Migration from Term Employment to Graded (Regular) setup : 70
- Movement from MR-SKC to Graded pay structure : 05

### **7.5 Interactions & Grievance Redressal Camps**

A robust institutional mechanism has been put in place for organising interactions and redressing grievances of the staff. In this connection, the CEO and other concerned officers of the Board interact with them by organising grievance redressal programmes from time to time for addressing the difficulties of the staff deployed on the yatra track as well as at various yatra locations. Awards comprising silver coins and certificates are also given to selected Safaikaramcharis and other employees as a token of appreciation for their outstanding performance and devotion to duty during these programmes.



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Shrine Board officers having Interaction session with the staff

Besides, under the Open Door Policy (followed on Tuesdays), the CEO or the Additional CEO (Personnel) 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 103 applications received in these sessions during 2017-18 were disposed of in a time bound manner.

### **8. Projects completed during the year**

#### **8.1. Gurukul Phase-II**

To provide residential accommodation to the students pursuing Shastri Course and the Acharyas at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, the Shrine Board has constructed Gurukul Phase-II comprising a Hostel Block, Acharya Block, Yagyashalla and Temple, that was inaugurated by Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 17 October 2017.



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The 3-storey Hostel Block has 10 spacious rooms each on ground floor and first floor for accommodating 30 students with all required facilities. There are 3 guest rooms, sitting lounge etc on the second floor besides a big hall for organising functions.

The 3-storey Acharya Block comprises 6 residential accommodation sets for Acharyas, 2 residential quarters in each storey with modern facilities. The Gurukul Phase-II has been constructed by Civil Engineering Wing of Shrine Board at a cost of Rs. 7.21 crore. The total built up area of the Hostel Block and Acharya Block is 22000 sft and 6600 sft respectively.



Governor N. N. Vohra inaugurating Gurukul Phase-II

### **8.2. Nivedita-II**

Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, inaugurated the Nivedita-II Nurses' Hostel at Kakryal on 17 October 2018. This building has been constructed by the Shrine Board at a cost of Rs. 9



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crore to cater to the residential requirements of the nurses of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal.



Governor N. N. Vohra inaugurating Nivedita-II Nurses' Hostel at Kakryal

Work on the construction of 6-storey Nivedita-II, taken up in October 2016, was completed within 11 months by the Civil Engineering Wing of the Shrine Board. This Hostel, equipped with all modern facilities, comprises 60 double occupancy residential rooms with attached pantries and toilets, one common room, a store room on each floor, a dining room on the ground floor which can accommodate 60 persons at a time, recreation room, sitting lounge, etc. The total plinth area of the building is 6160 sft while its total covered area is 37000 sft.



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A view of Nivedita-II Nurses' Hostel

The building is equipped with 2 lifts and 2 stairs. Provision has also been kept in the building for installation of solar photo voltaic unit to make it energy efficient. Besides, double-line plumbing system has been put in place in which the recycled water from sewerage treatment plant has been used for flushing and gardening purposes.

### **8.3. Aastha Bhawan**

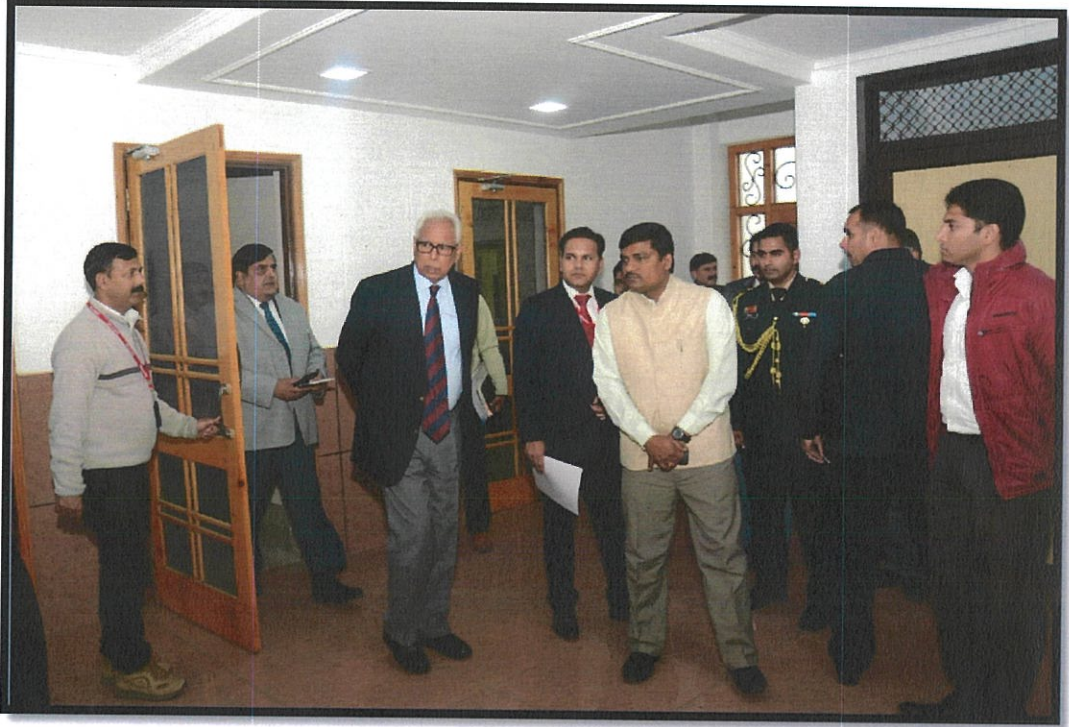
To create additional facilities for meeting the arising accommodation requirements, both for pilgrims and the Board functionaries, high priority is being laid on expeditious augmentation of the existing infrastructure.

Towards this objective, the Shrine Board has constructed 4-storey Aastha Bhawan complex at Katra, with a built up area of 34,920 sft, at a cost of Rs. 9.10 crore. The residential complex comprises 16 sets, four on each floor equipped with all basic amenities for the senior officers of the Board. The building is equipped with Solar Water Heating System of 8000 LPD capacity in addition to adequate arrangements for rain water harvesting.



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Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, accompanied by Shri B. B. Vyas, Board Member; Chief Executive Officer and other officers of the Shrine Board inspected Aastha Bhawan, constructed near the Shrine Board's Sports Complex at Katra on 23 November 2017.



Governor N. N. Vohra inspecting facilities at Aastha Bhawan, Katra



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### **9. Achievements and Highlights**

The Board has been adopting latest technologies and taking recurring initiatives for enhancing the facilities for pilgrims in the fields of sanitation, hygiene, catering, filtered water and such others. In addition, a number of projects for expansion and upgradation of civic amenities in Katra are also being undertaken for a holistic development of the region benefitting the public at large.

Recently, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Katra, has also been selected by the Central Government under the Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) Project, which will give a further fillip to sanitation, cleanliness and civic amenities in Katra and Shrine area through a range of infrastructural and technological interventions. A glimpse of the initiatives undertaken during the last year is placed below:-

#### **9.1 Provision of Free of Cost Ultra Filtered Water Through Water ATMs**

As a part of SIP Project, 55 Ultra Filtration based Water Kiosks are being installed by the Shrine Board at identified locations from Darshani Deodi to Bhawan, at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.06 crore, including design, supply, installation, successful commissioning and 5 years maintenance. Eleven of these Kiosks have already been commissioned at different locations while the remaining 44 Water Kiosks are being installed shortly. Each of these Water Kiosks has a capacity of dispensing 250 litres of ultra filtered water per hour, that shall be available free of cost to the pilgrims.

These Water Kiosks are automated water dispensing units which provide round the clock quality drinking water. The kiosks will be fitted with 5 touch-free taps, two of them providing chilled, two normal and one dispensing lukewarm ultra filtered water. Paper glasses will also be available at every Water Kiosk. If pilgrims wish to fill their bottles, they can also do so without any charges. Each kiosk will be manned by a



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trained operator to assist the pilgrims. Once all the kiosks progressively become operational there will be hardly any need left for the pilgrims to buy water bottles thereby drastically reducing footprint of PET bottles on the track.



A pilgrim inaugurating a Water ATM installed by Shrine Board at Darshani Deodi

The first such Water Kiosk installed by the Shrine Board was inaugurated by a pilgrim near Darshani Deodi at Katra on the auspicious occasion of holy Navratras in September 2017 in the presence of officers and employees of the Board, prominent citizens and a large number of pilgrims.

### **9.2 Kiosks for Milk and Milk Products**

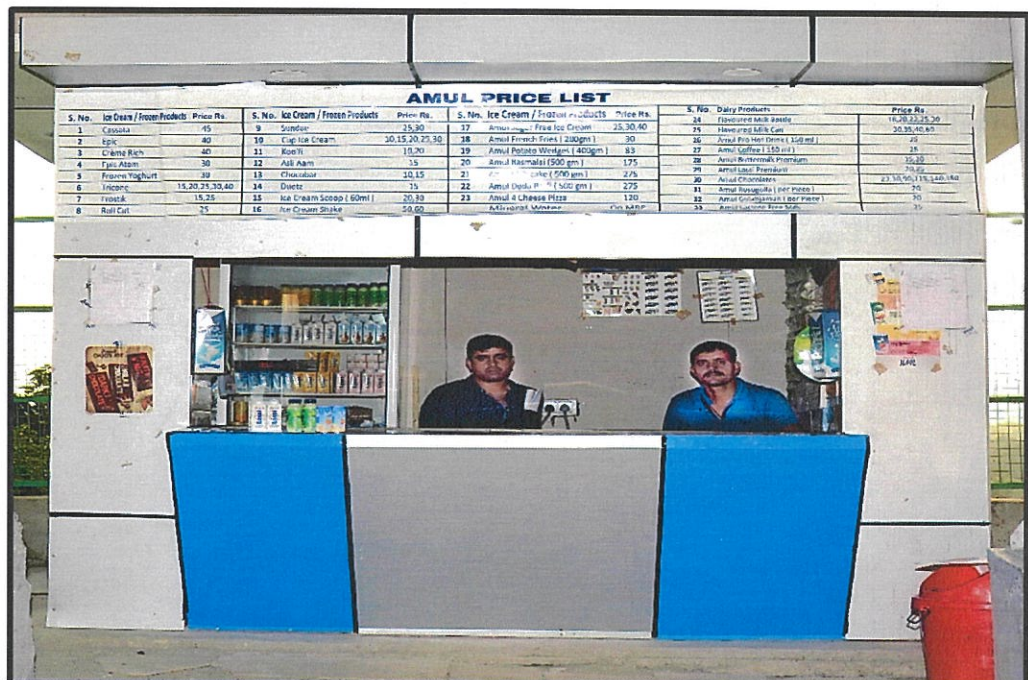
With a view to make available hygienic food and beverage items to pilgrims at reasonable prices, the Shrine Board has been making regular efforts to meet the emerging requirements of the pilgrims. In pursuance of this objective and based on feedback received from the pilgrims for greater availability of milk and milk products on the track, various reputed companies and milk cooperatives were approached by floating limited Expression of Interest, and after repeated negotiations





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and persuasions, two milk cooperatives viz Gujarat Milk Cooperative (Amul Brand) and Punjab Milk Cooperative (Verka Brand) have set up their kiosks for sale of milk and milk products on the track. Apart from Gujarat Milk Cooperative and Punjab Milk Cooperative, Nestle India Ltd., another reputed firm, also came forward to set up its kiosks on the track on Leave and Licence basis.



Kiosk for providing milk and milk products to the pilgrims on the track.

Consequently, the pilgrims are being provided a variety of milk and milk related products on the track on MRP including flavoured milk in tetra packs, UHT milk, different flavours of ice creams, milk based packaged sweets, milk cakes, milk chocolates, *pinni*, *dhoda*, *peda*, *kajoo-ki-burfi*, flavoured and plain *lassi* etc.

### 9.3 Packaged Sewage Treatment Plants

The Shrine Board has been focussing on the preservation of environment and ecology of the Shrine area. For this purpose, the Board has installed a number of Sewage Treatment Plants of latest



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technology and of varied capacities at the various establishments of the Board to ensure discharge of treated effluents as per CPCB norms.

In addition to the above, 3 Packaged Sewage Treatment Plants for standalone toilet blocks have also been installed recently with a total capacity of 25 KLD. These include 10 KLD capacity Packaged STP each at SKC Colony Ballani and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul and, besides, 5 KLD capacity STP at Biogas Plant at Banganga. The process is also being initiated to replicate the success of the Packaged STPs at various toilet blocks on the track.

### **9.4 Bio-cleaning and Bio-remediation**

Continuing with its initiatives for adoption of eco-friendly technologies, the Shrine Board has also attempted microbial consortium approved by the Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, for treating the latrine effluents for 2 Toilet Blocks of Banganga Sector and 3 Toilet Blocks of Adhkuwari Sector on a pilot and experimental basis. The objective behind choosing the Toilet Blocks of Banganga Sector was to ensure a clean and safe discharge into the holy Banganga rivulet. As per the adopted procedure, the samples of the treated effluent of all the Toilet Blocks were taken to a NABL accredited laboratory for testing on various required parameters. The results from IRCON ISL Environment Management Planning Laboratory are encouraging when compared with CPCB norms and treated water is now safe for discharge.

Simultaneously, Bio-sanitisation products prepared with consortium of different microbes and extracts of plants in the shape of powder and liquids have also been introduced in the Shrine area with an objective of replacing chemical based reagents and promote environmental products; cleaning of toilets, keeping toilets odour free and enhancing the hygiene and experience of the visiting devotees.



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Vacuum cleaners and water pressure jet machines being used on Tarakote Marg for cleaning of toilets

Consequently, the foul odour at the places of dumping and storage sites has been successfully removed by the aroma rich products thus adding to the hygiene and ambience on the track.

Further, mechanised cleaning of Toilets is planned to be implemented on the upcoming Tarakote Marg from Katra to Adhkuwari to further upgrade sanitation standards. This will include use of ride on machines for cleaning the track, while Toilet Blocks will be cleaned by using single disc machines, vacuum cleaners and water pressure jet machines to maximise the results.

### **9.5 Disaster Management training programmes for employees**

Disaster Management has been one of the priority areas of the Board in view of difficult terrain and topography of the Shrine area. Training programmes are organised from time to time for keeping the staff battle ready to respond to any emergency or disaster situation promptly and effectively. In this context, training programme on Basic Disaster Management and First Aid was organised from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to



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18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 for the employees of the Board in which 30 employees were trained.

Several training sessions were also organised for 169 short listed employees, including female employees of the Shrine Board, in February in which focus was on making employees sentient of the potential hazards like landslides, earthquakes and forest fires in the Shrine area and giving them hands on exposure on mitigation measures, crowd control, basic of search and rescue, operation and maintenance of fire fighting vehicles. 92 of these employees on the recommendations of designated committee of experts were inducted into Disaster Management Task Force (DMTF) that later conducted joint exercises with Police and CRPF, in presence of experts of SDRF from Reasi and Jammu and in house Master Trainers.

A joint exercise was also conducted with 30 volunteers from District Administration on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 with focus on Fire Fighting. Besides, a 21 member team from NDRF Bhatinda visited the Shrine area on 27-28 March 2018 and conducted mock exercises to analyse and measure the state of readiness and testing the effectiveness of an emergency response plan, preparedness and alertness of the stakeholders.



Experts imparting training to staff in Disaster Management



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Shrine Board staff taking part in a Mock Drill

### **9.6 Fire fighting units set up at major yatra locations**

To deal with any accidental fire incidents promptly and most effectively, in-house fire fighting units have been established by the Shrine Board at major yatra locations- Adhkuwari, Himkoti and Bhawan.

These fire fighting units have been set up considering the forest fire prone nature of the tracks to the Shrine, particularly during the peak summer months, and to deal with any accidental fire incidents. By establishing the fire fighting units, the Board management has improved its in-house capacity to deal with any fire incident and thus provide for the safety of the pilgrims against fire incidents and, besides, saving the Board's infrastructure from fire related damages.



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A demonstration on fire fighting operations

The fire fighting units include fully fabricated Mini-Fire Tenders with water storage capacity of 400 litres with a throw distance of 20 feet. These units are fully equipped with all modern gadgets, including fire suits, goggles, breathers, first-aid kit etc. Each Fire Tender is supported with mini-water tanker for water replenishment during fire fighting operations.



Shrine Board establishes in-house fire fighting units at major yatra locations



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To facilitate use of these in-house fire fighting units, the Board has also established dedicated fire hydrants at Adhkuwari and Bhawan.

### **9.7 Shrine Board's Quarterly Newsletter**

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has brought out the first edition of its Quarterly Newsletter, 'Trikuta'. The 8-page Newsletter contains information about the major activities of the Shrine Board, the ongoing infrastructural development projects and the initiatives being taken for the facilitation of the pilgrims in the January-March quarter of the year 2018.

The Newsletter also carries information in regard to endeavours of the Board for the promotion of health, education and sports sectors, besides building capacities of its human resource, disaster management preparedness, conservation of environment, adoption of green technologies, landmark decisions taken by the Board to further improve the facilities for the pilgrims as well as for the benefit of the people of the area.



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### **10. Upcoming Projects**

The Shrine Board has undertaken several projects for strengthening the infrastructure and progressively enhancing facilities to be provided to the pilgrims. The latest addition include the installation of Material Ropeway between Siar Dabri and Bhawan and Passenger Ropeway from Bhawan to Bhairon Ghati both of which are at advanced stages of completion besides construction of picturesque Tarakote Marg from Katra to Adhkuwari for on-foot pilgrims.

#### **10.1 Material Ropeway**

The Siar Dabri-Bhawan Material Ropeway, which is being installed by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at a cost of Rs. 12 crore, will facilitate quick and eco-friendly transportation of prasad and various other items and materials from Katra to Bhawan. The wagons will carry scrap, garbage and other items on its return journey to Katra. The ropeway will have a capacity of carrying 5 tons of material per hour and will help in decongesting the load of material, foodstuffs and other essential items on the existing yatra track thereby enhancing pilgrim convenience. This is the first ever Material Ropeway of its kind being installed in the State which is in the final stages of completion.

The Ropeway Project is being executed by a joint venture of M/s Space Age Power Pvt. Ltd, Srinagar and M/s Ropeway Resorts Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata under the supervision of RITES, a Government of India enterprise.





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A trial run of upcoming Siar Dabri-Bhawan Material Ropeway

Further, as part of Central Store decongestion plan at Banganga, a Sub-Store is being established at Siar Dabri near the Lower Terminal of Material Ropeway which will significantly augment the storage capacity.

The entire system, which will be electrically operated, will help in preserving the fragile eco-system of Trikuta Hills and, besides, reduce the number of goods and materials carrying mules on the track to the Shrine.

### **10.2 Passenger Ropeway**

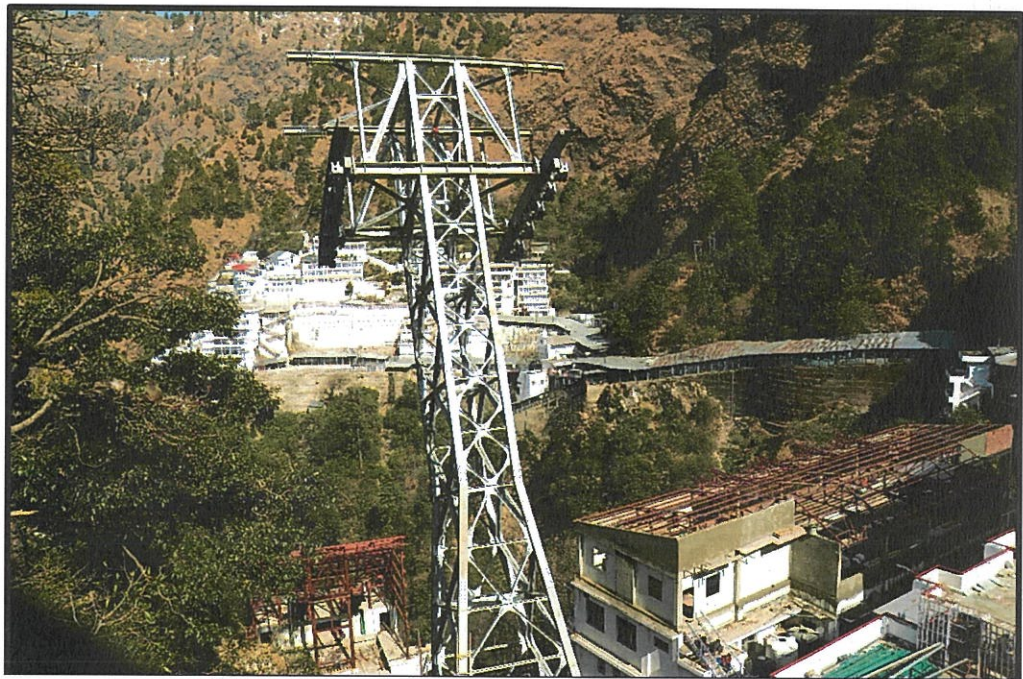
To continuously expand and upgrade the facilities for the pilgrims, Shrine Board's another ambitious project i.e. Rs. 60 crore Bhawan-Bhairon Ghati Passenger Ropeway is also at an advanced stage of completion.

This Ropeway with a capacity to carry 800 persons per hour will facilitate the pilgrims, particularly the elderly and specially-abled, to pay



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their obeisance at Bhaironji Temple, which was earlier difficult for them owing to a steep climb. Cabin Car of the Ropeway can carry 40-45 persons in one go and the time taken will be 3 minutes. A nominal fare of Rs. 100/- only for the to and fro journey has been fixed by the Board to facilitate accessibility of the Ropeway to all. The Ropeway system will have Automated Ticketing System on the pattern of Delhi Metro.



Work apace on installation of Bhawan-Bhairon Ghati Passenger Ropeway

The project is being executed by a Joint Venture of M/s Garaventa and Damodar Ropeway with the consultancy of M/s RITES Ltd. It is pertinent to mention that M/s Garaventa is a Swiss Company that has provided machineries and equipments for the Cable Car. The Cable Car not only conforms to India Cable Car standard but also to the European standards.

### **10.3 Tarakote Marg**

The Shrine Board has constructed a 7.5 km long Tarakote Marg, an alternate track exclusively for on-foot pilgrims between Katra and Adhkuwari. This track, which joins with the Himkoti Marg at Adhkuwari,



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estimated to cost over Rs. 80 crore, is in the advanced stage of completion and will very significantly decongest the existing 6 km long Banganga-Adhkuwari track especially during peak rush. The Tarakote Marg will provide a pony free route from Katra to Bhawan and will have well designed facilities for the comfort and convenience of the pilgrims.

The ramp style picturesque Tarakote Marg with a smooth gradient and having been made of anti-skid tiles, is easy to walk. To add to the ambience of the Tarakote Marg, the entire track is being aesthetically landscaped and more than 46,000 ornamental plants, herbs and trees have been planted. Three floating fountains have also been installed at a scenic pond, developed enroute.



Pilgrims walking on scenic Tarakote Marg

The Tarakote Marg will be equipped with all requisite facilities for the pilgrims which include Bhojanalayas, View Points, Medical Unit and Water ATMs, besides toilet blocks and waterless urinals. The track will be illuminated with 500 LED lights with power backup DG sets for ensuring round the clock power supply including night illumination.



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A spectacular view of water fountains in a water body developed by Shrine Board at Tarakote

For ensuring safety and security of the pilgrims against shooting stones and also protecting them from extreme sunshine and rain, this new track is being covered with aesthetically designed modular shelter sheds. In addition, a high rise welded mesh fence too is being erected all along the track, especially on the valley side, to prevent any accidental fall and to avoid any littering of hill slopes.

The View Points have been established at conspicuous locations so that the pilgrims can have an eye catching view of Katra, the base town for the pilgrimage, and the area around. Benches have been provided at regular intervals for the convenience of pilgrims.

The Tarakote Marg has been linked with the existing Banganga-Adhkuwari track at a point which takes off near Gulshan Langar via 1.5 km long link road that provides the Yatris the choice of reaching Adhkuwari via the existing Banganga-Adhkuwari track or the new Tarakote Marg, once they have crossed the Darshani Deodi.



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### **10.4 Swachh Iconic Places Scheme**

The Scheme was launched by the Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, wherein Shri Mata Vaishno Devi-Katra has been selected as one among the 10 Iconic Places identified in the country in the first phase for its planned infrastructural development and sanitation. Under this scheme, various interventions and infrastructural development works have been identified for putting in place the civic amenities on modern lines and also to ensure highest standards of sanitation and cleanliness in Katra and Shrine area.

As a sequel to this, various technological interventions are being implemented for the facilitation of pilgrims and the people at large with greater focus on augmentation of water supply and ensuring sanitation and cleanliness by synergising resources and expertise in a well planned and coordinated manner by all the stakeholders. This, interalia, includes ensuring systematic collection and disposal of garbage with the help of latest technological interventions.

#### **10.4.1 Water ATMs**

Aimed at twin objectives of discouraging the purchase of PET bottles on the track for drinking water and to provide Ultra filtered water to the pilgrims free of cost, the Board has taken up a project under Swachh Iconic Places for installation of 55 Water Kiosks on the track enroute Katra to Bhawan, out of which, 11 Water Kiosks have been already installed.



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### 10.4.2 Reverse Vending Machines

Two number of Reverse Vending Machines were installed by the Board in the Shrine area one each at Niharika Complex at Katra and another at Bhawan in March 2017 for effective collection and disposal of PET bottle waste. Based on the encouraging feedback, a project for installation of 50 Reverse Vending Machines, 25 in the Shrine area and 25 in the Municipal limits of Katra under Swachh Iconic Places scheme has been taken up which will further boost segregated collection of PET bottle flakes for their scientific disposal. Initially, 9 Reverse Vending Machines will be installed on pilot basis including 5 in Katra town and remaining 4 in the Shrine area.

It is pertinent to mention that currently there is an incentive based scheme for collection of PET bottles, wherein sanitation workforce is encouraged to collect and shift the PET bottles and other plastic materials to collection centres. Since 2015, the sanitation staff at respective sectors has been collecting PET bottles by segregation of waste at source and further promoting recycling through open market sale.



Reverse vending machine installed by Shrine Board for collection of PET bottles



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### **10.4.3 Underground Waste Collection Bin System for Katra Town**

Another initiative taken for improving the collection and transportation of wastes in the Katra town is an Underground Waste Collection Bin system, comprising of 10 such bins across Katra town. These bins are fully underground having only inlets above the ground surface to put the garbage in the bin. The bins have two inlets one for putting in smaller garbage packets by the individuals and the other for the higher quantity garbage collected in gunny bags or carts carried from various locations after cleaning. The top of these bins will be fully covered.

The underground collection of wastes will ensure that the garbage will not litter, minimising the possibility of solid waste lying on the roads and pavements and thereby providing clean surroundings. These underground bins will be cleared by a crane mounted compactor which will take around 2 minutes to clear one bin. This system is being used in Haldwani in Uttarakhand, Tambaram in Tamil Nadu and is being replicated in Bundi and Kangra Municipal Committees in Himachal Pradesh.

### **10.4.4 Awards**

The continuing efforts of the Shrine Board have not only been promoting pilgrim tourism in the State 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 probably one of the best managed Shrines in the country for which the Board has received many awards.

In October 2017, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine received the prestigious 'Swachh Iconic Place' Award under the Swachh Bharat



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Mission launched by the Government of India. The award was 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.

It is pertinent to recall that in recognition of these initiatives of the Board, the CNBC Awaaz, a Hindi Business News Channel, had awarded the Shrine Board in the category of 'Best Managed Religious Destination Award' for 2011, 2013 and 2015.



Shrine Board CEO receiving 'Special Iconic Place' Award





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### **11. Social Support Initiatives**

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

#### **11.1 Scholarships and Marriage Assistance**

Special emphasis is being given by the Board for promoting the education of girls belonging to erstwhile Baridar families residing in the nearby areas by providing them scholarships at a higher scale. The annual rates of scholarships have been increased significantly in March, 2018 especially for girl students for whom the increased scholarship amount will now range from Rs. 4200/- to Rs. 18,000/- per annum while in the case of boys the renewed rates will be in the range of Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 14,400/- per annum, depending upon the classes in which they are studying.

For students studying in classes I-XII in Government Schools, these scholarships are being given to the top 10 meritorious students, based on their class-wise internal merit. All students pursuing Undergraduate and Post-Graduate courses belonging to the erstwhile Baridar families who may be studying anywhere in the country are eligible for scholarships, provided that the family of the beneficiary student normally resides in the rural areas surrounding the Trikuta Hills.

During the past 15 years (2002-03 to 2017-18) under the scheme, more than Rs. 4.28 crore has been paid to 9945 meritorious students.



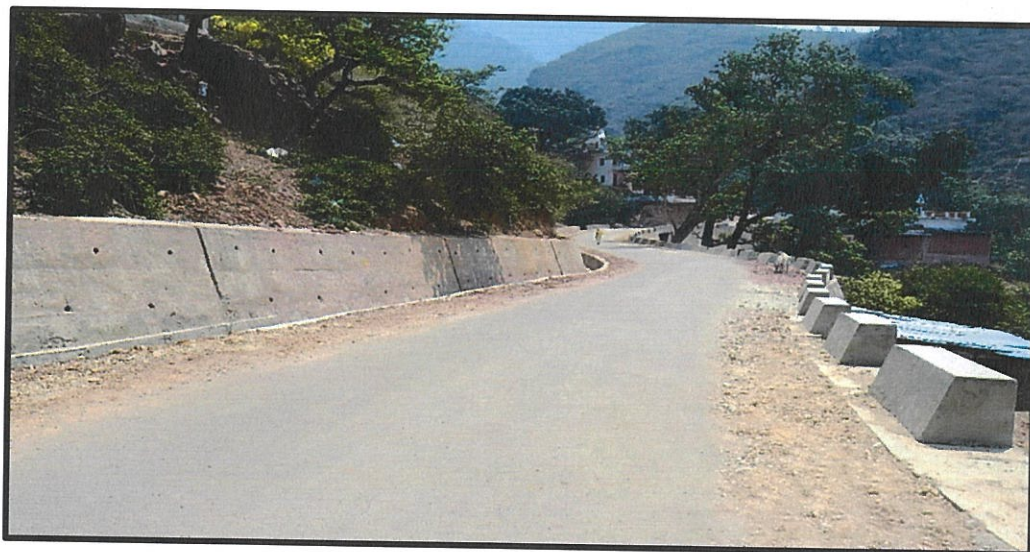
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On similar lines, the scale of financial assistance provided to the erstwhile Baridar families for celebrating the marriages of their daughters has been enhanced significantly as well. The basic financial assistance provided by the Board for the marriage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

In the past 15 years since the inception of this scheme, over Rs. 3.11 crore has been paid as financial assistance and gifts for celebration of marriages of 1002 daughters belonging to erstwhile Baridar families.

### **11.2 Katra Municipality Works**

Continuing with the initiatives for the creation, upgradation and expansion of civic amenities in Katra and the nearby areas for facilitation of the pilgrims (visiting the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji) and the local population, several developmental works have been executed by the Shrine Board particularly focussing on the upgradation of civic amenities in the area.



Circular Road from Hansali to Panthal Road via Bhimika Mandir constructed by the Shrine Board



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The works costing Rs. 285.66 lakh completed in Katra Municipality area during 2017-18 include construction of the Circular Road from Hansali to Panthal Road via Bhumika Mandir, installation of new railing on the Central Verge of the road leading to the Railway Station, installing dual lamp LED street lights and providing equipment for the Children Playground at Shalimar Park, Katra.



Central Verge of Railway Station road with dual lamp LED lights constructed by Shrine Board

The details of works completed in Katra Municipality are given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1	Circular Road from Hansali to Panthal Road via Bhumika Mandir.	119.16
2	Installation of railing on the Central Verge of the road leading to the Railway Station with dual lamp LED street lights.	153.50
3	Providing equipment for the Children Playground at Shalimar Park, Katra.	13.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>285.66</b>

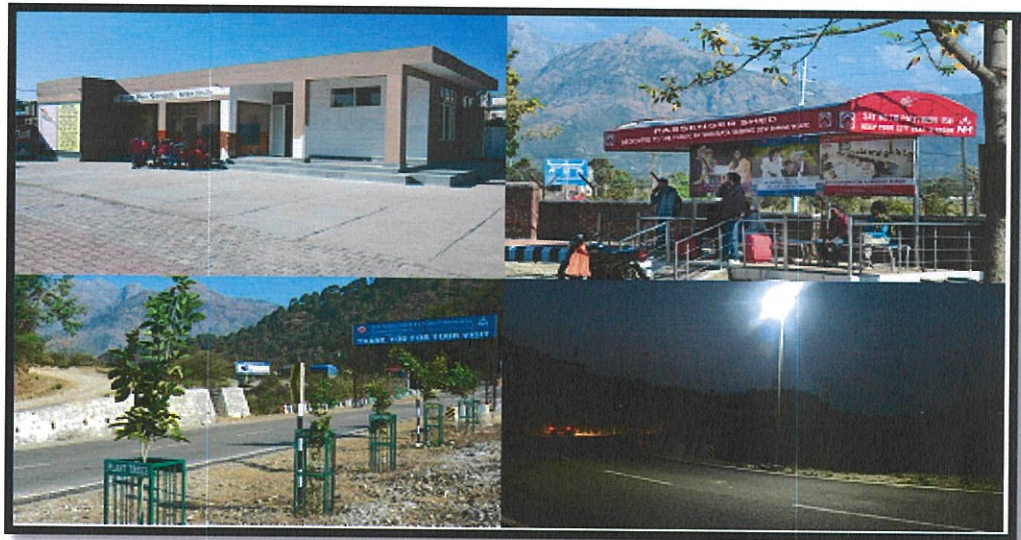


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### **11.3 Sira-Kakryal Development**

The development works in Sira-Kakryal and its neighbourhood, valuing Rs. 298 lakh, which include installation of 6 Stainless Steel Bus Stops; 40 LED Solar Street Lights on Manthal-Kakryal and Domel-Kakryal Roads; landscaping and plantation work that were initiated earlier were also completed during the year.

The works completed in Sira Colony that has been developed on the pattern of a 'Model Village' also include pavement of lanes, construction of footpaths and drains and installation of street lights, providing additional accommodation and other facilities in Primary School Sira Colony and construction of a Conference Hall at Sira for community gathering.



Modern civic amenities developed by the Shrine Board in Sira-Kakryal area

### **11.4 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Kanjak Samridhhi Yojana**

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has approved 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.



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The scheme titled 'Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Kanjak Samriddhi Yojana' aims at financial empowerment and economic self-reliance of the girl children belonging to the lower financial strata of the identified villages and was approved by the Board at its 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting held under the chairmanship of Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of the Shrine Board, at the Raj Bhavan, on 16 March 2018.

Under this scheme, a subscription of Rs. 1000/- per month will be provided by the Board in favour of the identified girl children between 0-5 years of age for a period of 14 years on the pattern of 'Ladli Beti Scheme' of the State Government. The Board will bear an expenditure of around Rs. 77 lakh per annum on this account. The amount in respect of each beneficiary will mature after 21 years from the date of opening of the account, after which each girl will get a lump sum amount of approximately Rs. 5.62 lakh that can be utilised for the educational and marriage purposes. However, a partial withdrawal upto 50% of the balance is also allowed after such of the girls attain 18 years of age.

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

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

During the Financial Year 2017-18, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board spent an amount of Rs. 516.14 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



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Kakryal, Sira, Kotla and Sool villages) and the Land Owners (whose land was acquired for the setting up of SMVDU and SMVDNSH) and to poor and needy patients in general (under Arogaya Yojna, a component of the Medical Support Policy of Shrine Board). The Board made the expenditure as per the details given below:

S. No.	Category	OPD / IPD	FY/ 2017-18	
			(Apr 17- Mar 18)	
			No.	Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)
1	Pilgrims	OPD/ IPD	178	98.87
2	Landowners	OPD	341	2.73
3	Employees & their dependents	OPD	8,546	54.25
		IPD	1,004	261.92
4	Students of SMVDCoN	OPD	620	3.65
		IPD	11	1.31
5	Students of Gurukul	OPD	83	1.08
		IPD	6	1.38
6	Gratuitous Relief	OPD/ IPD	89	90.95
<b>Total:</b>			<b>10,878</b>	<b>516.14</b>

## 12 Events during the year

### **12.1 Sthapna Diwas of Shrine Board**

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was established on 30 August 1986 and since then the Foundation Day of the Board is celebrated every year on this historic day by performing Pooja, Havan, Yagya and organising several other events. In this connection, 32<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day was organised on 30 August 2017. Several functions were organised at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Katra, Vaishnavi Dham in Jammu and other locations in which the staff of the Shrine Board and a large number of pilgrims participated. Illumination was done on all the main buildings of the Shrine Board at various locations as part of the celebrations.



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CEO and other officers participating in *Pooja* and *Havan* on the occasion of 32<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day of Shrine Board

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

At Katra, the main function was held at Niharika Complex where special *Pooja* and *Havan* were performed in which the Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board and other officers and staff, besides the pilgrims participated.

### **12.2 Annual Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul**

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra celebrated its Annual Day on 30 August 2017 by organising an impressive function at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

Prof. Ramesh Kumar Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi was the Chief Guest on this occasion, while Dr. S. S Bloeria, Member, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council for the



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Gurukul, presided over the function that was attended by Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri and several other dignitaries.



Chief guest inaugurating Annual Day function of SMVD Gurukul-2017

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Pandey lauded the Shrine Board for establishing the Gurukul and putting in place excellent facilities for imparting quality education in Sanskrit and other subjects for all round personality development of the students pursuing their education in this institution. He advised the students to work hard to optimally benefit from these facilities provided by the Board.

Prof. Pandey gave medals and certificates to the meritorious students who had excelled in academics, sports and various other extra-curricular activities and congratulated the management, Acharyas, teachers, staff and students of the Gurukul on the Annual Day.

On this occasion, the students of the Gurukul staged an impressive Sanskrit play namely *Stuti Priyo Raja* which was widely appreciated by





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the large audience comprising students, faculty, parents and guardians as well as the employees of the Board.



Gurukul students staging a Sanskrit play

### 12.3 Shat Chandi Maha Yagya during Navratras

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya was organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji twice in September 2017 and March 2018 during the Navratras. The Maha Yagya, which commenced on the auspicious occasion of beginning of the Navratras amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and performance of other religious ceremonies for peace and prosperity, concluded with *Purna Ahuti* on Mahanavami in September 2017, while it concluded on the auspicious occasion of Ramanavami in March 2018.



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Shrine Board officers participating in Shat Chandi Maha Yaga during September 2017 Navratras at Bhawan

The officers and staff of the Shrine Board, besides a large number of pilgrims were present on these occasions.

The Bhawan, Atka and the area surrounding it were tastefully decorated with flowers brought from various parts of the country and abroad. The Shrine Board had put in elaborate arrangements for the large number of pilgrims who visited the Shrine during Navratras. Special arrangements were made for availability of "fasting" related food at the Bhojanalayas of the Shrine Board.



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Shrine Board officers participating in Shat Chandi Maha Yaga during March 2018 Navratras at Bhawan

### **12.4 Inauguration of Basohli Hostel at SMVDU**

Governor N. N. Vohra, Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, inaugurated two new blocks of Basohli Boys Hostel on 17 October 2017 built in order to meet the ever growing requirements of residential accommodation for increasing number of students.



A view of Basohli Boys Hostel at SMVDU



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These 5-storey Hostel Blocks, with a built up area of 1,44,000 sft, were constructed by the University Engineering Wing at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.50 crore. The two Blocks having accommodation for 396 students have augmented the accommodation facilities for the students of this University in a big way, which can now accommodate around 2000 students.



Governor N. N. Vohra planting a sapling of *Rudraksha* in Basohli Hostel premises at SMVDU



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The Governor also flagged off the 'Initiative Towards Green Campus' with girl students taking off on a tour of the Campus on bicycles, to enlarge awareness among all the stakeholders to reduce vehicular movements to the bare minimum. He also planted a sapling of *Rudraksha* in the Hostel premises on this occasion.



Governor N. N. Vohra flagging off the 'Initiative Towards Green Campus'

### **12.5 Annual day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing**

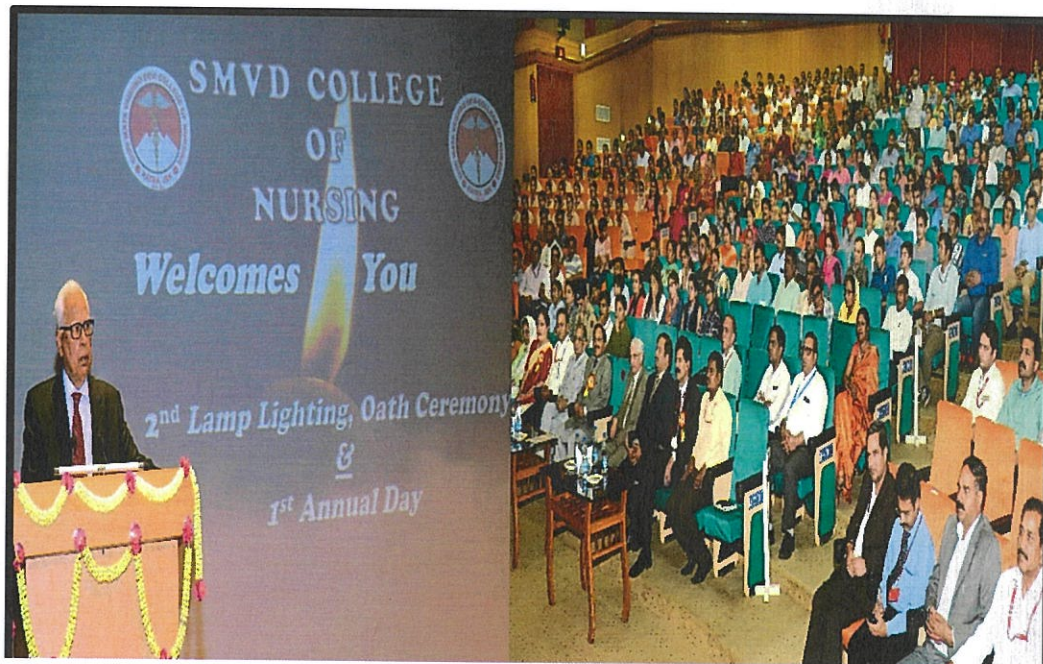
The Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Batch of B. Sc. Nursing students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Kakryal, and Annual Day function of the college were held on 17 October 2017.

Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, was the Chief Guest. He gave mementos and prizes to the



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students of the 1<sup>st</sup> Batch who had excelled in academics and co-curricular activities during the past year.



Governor N. N. Vohra addressing students on Annual Day function of SMVD College of Nursing

On this occasion, all the Nursing students of 2<sup>nd</sup> Batch of the college assembled on the stage holding candles and thereafter, took the Oath for rendering professional, ethical and selfless service. The ceremony was conceptualised to initiate the students into the noble profession of nursing.



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Students of Nursing College participating in Lamp Lighting and Oath taking ceremony

A musical drama was presented by the students of the Nursing College on this occasion.

### **12.6 Visits of Dignitaries**

The following dignitaries visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum during the year 2017-18:

- i) Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Union Minister for Civil Aviation (16-08-2017).
- ii) Justice A. K. Goel, Judge Supreme Court of India (23-09-2017).
- iii) General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff (30-12-2017).
- iv) Shri H. D. Deve Gowda, former Prime Minister of India (15-06-2017).
- v) Shri Jayant Sinha, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation (06-05-2017).
- vi) Justice J. Chelameswar, Judge Supreme Court of India (09-06-2017).



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- vii) Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Judge Supreme Court of India (17-06-2017).
- viii) Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre, Minister of State for Defence (04-10-2017).
- ix) Justice Swatanter Kumar, Chairperson, National Green Tribunal (08-10-2017).
- x) Shri V. P. Singh Badnore, Governor of Punjab (07-04-2017)

### **13 Allied Institutions**

The Board has been constantly involved in socio-economic development of Katra and its surrounding areas, especially focussing on sectors of education, health care and sports. As a result, several institutions have been set up in furtherance of this objective and are being continuously nurtured.

#### **13.1 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University**

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University established by the Shrine Board at Kakryal near Katra in 2004 has witnessed a remarkable growth over the past 14 years. This autonomous, technical and fully residential university is fast emerging as a centre of excellence in teaching and research in the country.

In sync with the emerging requirements, several hostels having modern facilities, state-of-the-art labs besides other buildings and logistics have come up in the recent years to provide the best possible arrangements of teaching and research to a constantly growing number of students who seek admission in this university from across the country. To further augment the hostel accommodation, a 3-storey Girls Hostel building with a built up area of 1,20,000 sft. has recently come up in the campus at an estimated cost of Rs. 36.25 crore having accommodation facilities for 418





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students. With the completion of this hostel building, the total accommodation facilities in the varsity have gone up to about 2400 students.



A view of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University

During the past one decade the number of students pursuing their education in this institution of higher and technical learning has increased from 1028 to nearly 1700 from around 22 states across the country with corresponding increase in the number of faculty from 78 in 2008 to 126 at present.

The varsity has five faculties of study which include Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Management, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Nursing and Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, comprising 12 departments, offering a total of five undergraduate, 11 postgraduate and one integrated programme besides Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Research. The academic system, syllabi and evaluation procedure has been adopted from the Indian Institute of Technology which promotes vigorous learning and transparent evaluation mechanism.



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The College of Engineering of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University has achieved a mark amongst the top 100 Engineering Colleges in the country in a short span of less than a decade of the establishment of the University, as per the NIRF ranking.

### 13.2 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, established by the Shrine Board at Charan Paduka, Katra, in 2010, is a unique institution serving the society by promoting Sanskrit language and literature. The Gurukul is imparting education to the students in Vedas, Karamkand and Pooja rituals besides teaching the modern subjects like English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Computer Sciences and Music.



A view of SMVD Gurukul campus

The Gurukul has been upgraded to provide education upto Shastri level from the 2017-18 academic session. All the 166 students studying from class 6<sup>th</sup> to Shastri Part-I are provided education, boarding, lodging, uniforms, books and other required facilities at



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the cost of the Board. It is pertinent to mention that 20 students are admitted to class 6<sup>th</sup> in this fully residential Gurukul every year after conducting entrance test in January-March.

The Gurukul, which is affiliated to the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, is fully equipped with a hi-tech language lab having facilities of LCDs, Computer systems, required software etc., for teaching of Sanskrit, Hindi and English alongside the sports facilities which include table tennis, basketball, volleyball, badminton and cricket, for all round personality development of the students. Besides sports, debate competitions are also organised for the students of the Gurukul. The resultant outstanding performance of the students has been bringing laurels to the Gurukul by winning medals in academics and extra-curricular activities at both the state and the national levels.



Gurukul students in a class room

As mandated, the Gurukul has also been regularly organising workshops for providing refresher training to the Pujaris from the entire region. This training is provided free of cost and aims to



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enable the Pujaris to improve their knowledge and understanding of the rituals and religious practices.

### **13.3 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing**

To provide top quality nursing education in tune with modern times, the Board established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing at Kakryal which started functioning from 2016-17. Pending construction of the campus that would take some time, a decision was taken to start the college in a make shift accommodation within the Hospital Complex from 2016 onwards.

60 number of girl students each were admitted to the first and second batches of the 4-year B.Sc. Nursing Course while this number will be raised to 100 per batch after the construction of dedicated infrastructure of the Nursing College. The College has hi-tech labs and well stocked library with allied facilities. The establishment of the Nursing College is yet another milestone in the development of Katra and its surroundings and a testimony of Shrine Board's contribution to the society.

The Board at its 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting approved the Master Plan for construction of an autonomous campus for the College of Nursing, coming up on 175 kanals of land on the western face of hillock adjacent to southern boundary of the SMVDIME. Since this piece of land is flanked by steep contours, as such, all the facilities of the campus have been planned at different levels with an arterial road running through it.



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Students of Nursing College in a lab

The broad contours of the Master Plan of the Nursing College include facilities for 400 students for 4 year programme at the under-graduate level and 10 students per stream for 5 streams at the post-graduate level. In addition, the proposed college will also be equipped for accommodating 20 research scholars at a time.

Accordingly, to meet the requirements of the college, the facilities along with allied infrastructure planned include construction of an Administrative Block and Academic Block, 5 Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Hostel Blocks, besides Open Air Theatre, Open Play Ground, 300 KLD Sewage Treatment Plant, 33 KV Electric Sub-Station, 11 KV LT Sub-Station, Dedicated Water Source and Water Harvesting Pond, 3 Parking Lots and landscaping.

The construction of 2 Hostel Blocks along with allied works like construction of Arterial Road and Retaining Walls have been taken up while other works which include construction of Faculty Blocks, Administrative and Academic Block and Sewage Treatment Plant will be taken up before the end of 2018.



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### 13.4 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

This 230-bedded Superspeciality tertiary care hospital established by the Shrine Board at Kakryal has been functioning since April 2016 and is equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment facilities to provide highly specialised medical care at affordable cost to the people of J&K.

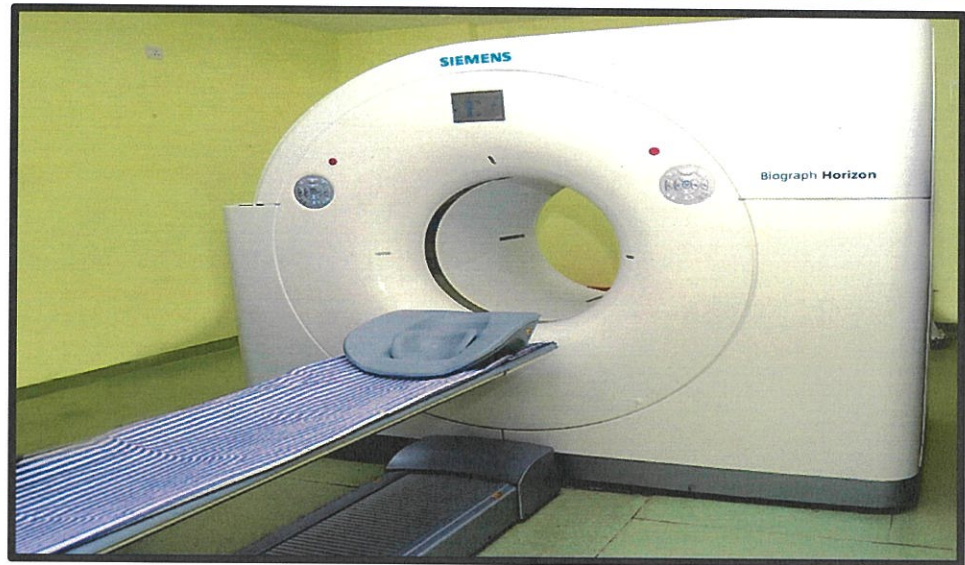


A view of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

The Superspeciality Hospital has more than 20 different streams of medicine and surgery, including cardiology, cardio-thoracic surgery, neurology, neuro-surgery, nephrology, urology, oncology, pulmonology, gastroenterology, orthopaedics, trauma-medicine, paediatrics and neonatology, obstetrics and gynaecology with highly trained doctors, nurses and technicians to provide highest standards of patient care. The hospital treated over 1.14 lakh patients, including 9187 indoor patients during April 2017-March 2018.



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PET CT facility installed at SMVDNSH, Kakryal

The hospital is equipped with hi-end medical equipments including Linear Accelerator, Brachy Therapy, Gama Camera, MRI, 128 Slice CT Scan and Flat Panel Cath Lab to enable quick and accurate diagnosis of various ailments. The diagnostic and treatment facilities are being further strengthened and an advanced PET CT facility for early detection of cancer is also expected to be functional in this hospital shortly. Such a facility is presently not available elsewhere in the region.

The hospital also runs its Multi-speciality Evening Clinic in Jammu and provides round the clock ambulance service, mobile mammography, mobile cardiac and general screening facilities.

### **13.5 Shrine Board's Sports Complex**

The Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra, equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, has emerged as a nerve centre of sports activities and coaching facilities for various disciplines in a short span of 2 years, since its inauguration. The sports persons being groomed and trained at this Sports Complex are making a



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mark by winning medals in various competitions held at the state and national levels.

The magnificent complex is suitable for track and field events as well as team sports. Besides, outdoor facilities including a synthetic lawn tennis court, basketball court and a volleyball court; the Sports Complex also has indoor facilities for table tennis and shooting in addition to a well equipped gymnasium.



Archers receiving specialized coaching at Shrine Board's Sports Complex

The focussed disciplines of the Sports Complex are archery, shooting, athletics and basketball for which the latest equipment and expert coaches have been engaged by the Board. Regular specialised coaching camps are organised for training and grooming the players to sharpen their sporting skills and win medals at the state, national and international levels.





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A basketball match in progress at Shrine Board's Sport Complex

An Annual Calendar of sports activities is formulated for organising coaching camps and holding sports competitions regularly for promoting sports culture among the youth of the area and prepare the budding players for higher level competitions. Talent hunt is also organised from time to time via trials in the educational institutions of the area to select players in identified disciplines for imparting them specialised coaching so that they are well groomed for the participation in various competitive events.

As a result of the continuing efforts, in the first open trials organised by the Archery Association of India, 3 archers namely Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Mr. Tarif and Ms. Jyoti Baliyan receiving coaching at the Board's Sports Complex were selected during trials held at Rohtak in March 2018 to undergo National Coaching Camp for the Asian Para Games scheduled to be held in Jakarta in October 2018. Besides, 2 archers of the Sports Complex also participated in the Khelo India Programme events held at New Delhi from 5 to 8 February 2018.



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A view of Shooting Range at Shrine Board's Sports Complex

A 28-day Summer Coaching Camp was organised at the Sports Complex for the school children of Katra and its surrounding areas in the seven sports disciplines of archery, fencing, athletics, shooting, volleyball, table tennis and basketball during 10 June - 8 July 2017. 150 children of 8-14 years of age participated in this coaching camp.

Similarly, a 15-day Winter Coaching Camp was also organised at the Sports Complex during 28 December 2017 - 12 January 2018 in the disciplines of athletics, basketball, shooting, volleyball, lawn tennis, archery and table tennis. The list of activities included orientation course for Physical Education Teachers, self-defence for women, State Level Archery Championship, Independence Day, Republic Day, Yoga Day, National Sports Day etc.



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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. The construction of Durga Bhawan to provide free of cost on-floor accommodation to the pilgrims in the Bhawan area is likely to be taken up soon for the benefit of the pilgrims. Further, to augment and streamline pilgrim amenities in the Bhawan area, a comprehensive Master Plan for Bhawan and the Extended Shrine Area was approved by the Shrine Board at its 62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting held on 16 March 2018. The same will serve as a guideline for a streamlined and planned developmental activities as per emerging requirements in future.

Jai Mata Di !