

जय माता दी



**Administrative Report
2020-21**



SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD



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1. Introduction

The Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, situated in the Trikuta Hills, near Katra, the base town for the pilgrimage, in Reasi District of Jammu and Kashmir, is one of the most revered Shrines and holiest pilgrimages, where millions of devotees from within the country and across the globe come to pay their obeisance.

2. Background

Prior to the formation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, the pilgrimage to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine was managed by the Dharmarth Trust and 'Baridars'. Though the number of pilgrims to the Shrine and accordingly the magnitude of donations were progressively increasing but there was hardly any corresponding perceptible improvement in infrastructure or other facilities for the visiting yatris. There were no adequate arrangements of water or power supply. The track was very narrow and unpaved making it difficult for the pilgrims to walk. This called for major initiatives to overhaul administration and management of the Shrine alongwith plans for infrastructural development and pilgrim-centric facilities as well as logistical arrangements to meet the immediate and long term goals of catering to progressively rising number of pilgrims.

3. Scenario Post-establishment of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Since the establishment of the Shrine Board in 1986, faster pace pilgrim-oriented development has all along remained top most priority of the Board. The entire stretch of the holy pilgrimage from Katra to Bhawan has witnessed considerable all round development. This has resulted in completely transforming the infrastructural facilities and other logistics for the pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. The Shrine Board mandated to provide better management, administration



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and governance of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and its endowments has put in enormous human and material resources in developing the best and the most modern facilities so that the pilgrimage to this world renowned Shrine becomes a memorable and pleasant experience for the yattris, alongwith seeking spiritual bliss.

In vigorous pursuit of these objectives, the Shrine Board has completed a host of infrastructure development projects and put on ground arrangements for meeting the present and the futuristic requirements of the pilgrimage which have brought laudable result. The Shrine area has witnessed all round improvement in pilgrim facilities like construction of pedestrian-friendly and comfortable tracks by laying tiles made of skid free material, stair cases, excellently maintained hygienic toilets, catering units, cloak rooms, blanket stores, accommodation units, round the clock water and power supply, landscaping, healthcare arrangements and the other best possible pilgrim facilities in this challenging terrain. A large number of hi-tech facilities have been since put in place while many more technology driven facilities including installation of Video Walls at various locations, augmentation of accommodation facilities in the shape of construction of Durga Bhawan and phased manner implementation of Master Plan of Bhawan and the Extended Shrine Area and other ongoing, upcoming and visualised infrastructural development projects are for certain further revolutionise the logistics for the yattris. The continuing initiatives of the Shrine Board besides largely facilitating the devotees are also significantly promoting pilgrim tourism in J&K and contributing meaningfully towards the growth of economic activities and creation of employment avenues.

With these efforts and blessings of the Mother Goddess, the Shrine is today regarded as one of the best managed Shrine in the country for which the Board has been receiving many awards consecutively year after year.



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4. Mandate of the Shrine Board

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

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



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5. Constitution of the Board as on 31-03-2021

CHAIRMAN: Shri Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, J&K.

MEMBERS:

Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.)

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

Mr. Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli

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

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

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

H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

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

Shri Vijay Dhar

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

Shri K. B. Kachru

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

Shri K. K. Sharma

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

PREVIOUS CHAIRMAN: Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, Lieutenant Governor, J&K (October 2019- August 2020).



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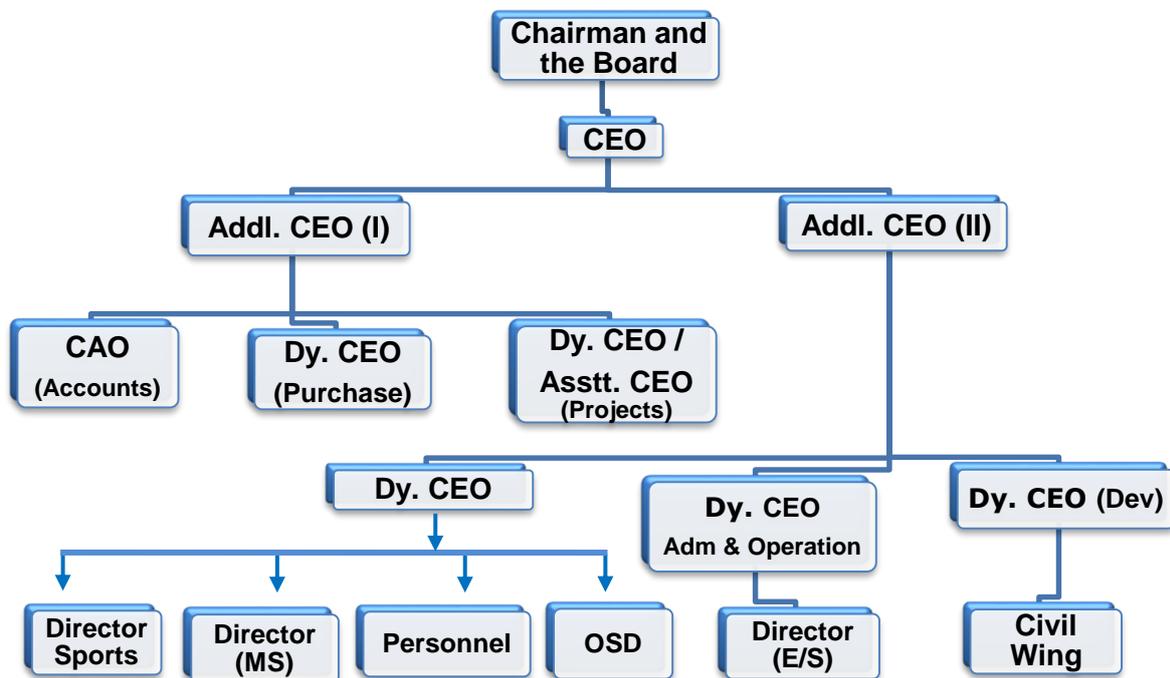
Officers of the Board as on 31-03-2021

- Shri Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Chief Executive Officer
(6 December 2019-).
- Shri Vivek Verma, IFS, Additional Chief Executive Officer
(12 November 2018 -).
- Shri Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer
(21 December 2015 -).
- Dr. Sunil Sharma, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer
(18 January 2020-).
- Shri Jagdish Chander, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer
(22 February 2019 -).
- Shri Deepak Dubey, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer
(3 July 2017 -).
- Shri Vishavjeet Singh, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer
(15 April 2020 -).
- Shri Manu Hansa, Assistant Chief Executive Officer
(1 February 2016 -14 April 2020).



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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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6. Yatra during the period

6.1 Yatra Statistics

During the calendar year 2020, a total of 17,20,357 pilgrims visited the Shrine as against 79,40,064 yatris who paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum in 2019.

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 |



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| | | |
|----|------|-----------|
| 24 | 2009 | 82,34,896 |
|----|------|-----------|



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| | | |
|----|------|-------------|
| 25 | 2010 | 87,49,326 |
| 26 | 2011 | 1,01,15,647 |
| 27 | 2012 | 1,04,95,269 |
| 28 | 2013 | 93,23,647 |
| 29 | 2014 | 78,03,193 |
| 30 | 2015 | 77,76,604 |
| 31 | 2016 | 77,23,721 |
| 32 | 2017 | 81,78,318 |
| 33 | 2018 | 85,86,541 |
| 34 | 2019 | 79,40,064 |
| 35 | 2020 | 17,20,357 |

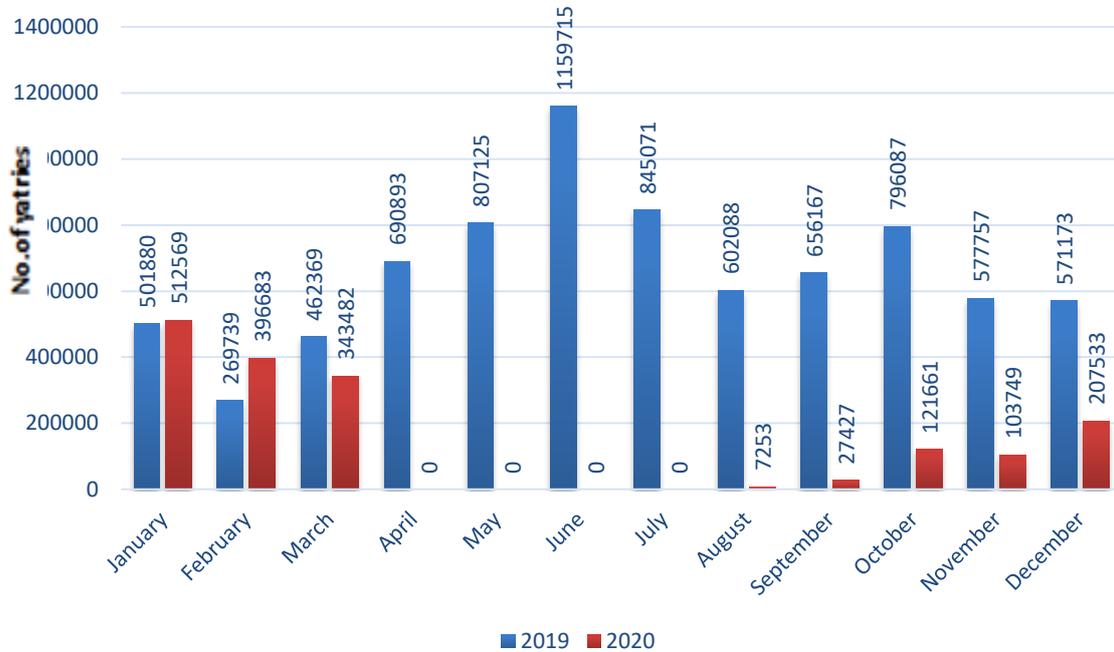
Month Wise Yatra comparison 2019 v/s 2020

| Month | 2019 No. of Yatris | 2020 No. of Yatris |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| January | 501880 | 5,12,569 |
| February | 269739 | 3,96,683 |
| March | 462369 | 3,43,482 |
| April | 690893 | 00 |
| May | 807125 | 00 |
| June | 1159715 | 00 |
| July | 845071 | 00 |
| August | 602088 | 7,253 |
| September | 656167 | 27,427 |
| October | 796087 | 1,21,661 |
| November | 577757 | 1,03,749 |
| December | 571173 | 2,07,533 |
| Total | 79,40,064 | 17,20,357 |

Due to COVID-19, yatra was suspended on 18 March and resumed on 16 August 2020.



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The largest number of pilgrims who visited the Shrine was during January 2020. The months of February, March and December were the peak season of the pilgrimage while the lean period was during April to November which was primarily due to COVID-19 pandemic.

6.2 Modes of Travel by Yatris

6.2.1 Helicopter Services

The one-way passenger fare for heli-travel between Katra and Sanjichhat during 2020-21 was Rs. 1730/- per passenger (inclusive of all taxes). These rates were 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 four months in advance and are also



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available on current ticket counters where preference is generally given to senior citizens and specially-abled pilgrims. A total of 2,01,167 yatris availed this service during 2020-21.



Helipad Sanjichhat

6.2.2 Battery Car Services

Pollution free Battery Car service between Adhkuwari and Bhawan on Himkoti Marg is available with preference to senior citizens and specially-abled pilgrims. The service is available between 7.30 a.m. and 10.30 p.m., which varies due to yatra numbers. During 2020-21, the charges per passenger for 30-minute journey from Adhkuwari to Bhawan and from Bhawan to Adhkuwari were Rs. 354/- and Rs. 236/- (inclusive of taxes), respectively. The booking for Battery Car service is available through online mode and current counters at Adhkuwari and Manokamana Bhawan. A total of 2,65,442 pilgrims used this facility in the year 2020-21.



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Battery Car

6.2.3 Passenger Ropeway

The Passenger Ropeway is being constructed with a view to facilitate the pilgrims who are required to undertake an arduous climb from Bhawan to Bhairon Ghati for performing darshan at Bhairon Ji Temple. With a horizontal length of 375 metres and the level difference of 236 metres the Passenger Ropeway has the capacity to carry 800 pilgrims per hour particularly the elderly and specially-abled, to pay 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 is 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 has Automated Ticketing System on the pattern of Delhi Metro.



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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.



Passenger Ropeway

6.2.4 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.



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Ponies

6.2.5 Palanquins

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



Palanquins



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

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

7. Religious Activities

7.1 Pooja, Havan and Yagya

The Shrine Board besides making continuing endeavours to provide increasingly the best possible facilities to the visiting pilgrims, is also focussing on organising special Paath, Pooja, Havan, Yagya and other rituals on various auspicious occasions for enhancing religious activities at the Holy Shrine. Towards realising this objective, the Board undertook a number of such initiatives during the year which are detailed below:

7.1.1 The Shrine Board organised Nav Chandi Yagya and Havan at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on the auspicious occasion of Yogini Ekadashi, Sarvatha Siddhi Yog and Ashwini Nakshatra on 16 June which concluded with *Purna Ahuti*. The Yagya was organized for peace, prosperity and health of humanity.



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Nav Chandi Yagya performed at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

- 7.1.2 Similarly, Durga Saptshati Paath, Pooja and Havan was organised by the Shrine Board at the Holy Shrine which commenced on the beginning of Gupt Navratras for peace, prosperity and health of humanity and concluded with Purna Ahuti on Navami on 29 June. Besides Durga Saptshati Paath, Pooja and Havan, 1.25 lakh Navarna Mantra Jaap was also performed during the Gupt Navratras.
- 7.1.3 Likewise, on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, a Vishesh Pooja was organised by the Shrine Board at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on 14 November evening. The Vishesh Pooja was held for peace, prosperity, health and well-being of humanity. Chhappan Bhog were offered to the Goddess amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and performing other religious ceremonies. A large number of pilgrims and officials of the Shrine Board were present on the occasion.



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Vishesh Pooja organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on Diwali.

7.1.4 Shri Lakshmi Narayan Yagya was also organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul in which the students of this institution from class 6th to Shastri Part-III and the faculty participated through online mode. The objective of organising the Yagya was to impart practical training to the students and for peace, prosperity and health of humanity. The Gurukul also organised a webinar on 20 June on varied aspects of solar eclipse which occurred on 21 June 2020 in which students as well as the faculty of the institution participated.



SMVD Gurukul organised Lakshmi Narayan Yagya.



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7.2 Auspicious occasions of Navratras

The Shrine Board makes special and elaborate arrangements for the pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine during the Navratras twice every year. Keeping this in view, as per practice in vogue, the Shrine Board made excellent arrangements for the pilgrims who paid obeisance at the Holy Shrine during the Navratras which commenced from 17 October and concluded on 24 October 2020.



A view of the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji during Navratras.

The Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Atka and the area surrounding it were decorated with exquisite flowers besides the illumination of Bhawan area was done with attractive and colourful lights. Other arrangements included round the clock water and power supply all along the tracks leading to the Shrine and in the Bhawan area, sanitisation and cleanliness, availability of special “fast related” food at the Board’s catering outlets and other facilities.

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya was also organised at the Holy Shrine during the Navratras for peace, prosperity, health and well-being of humanity, in accordance with the prevalent practice, which commenced on first Navratra



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and concluded with *Purna Ahuti* on the auspicious occasion of Mahanavami. Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; other officers and staff of the Board, besides a large number of pilgrims participated in *Purna Ahuti* and other religious ceremonies performed amidst Vedic Mantras on the occasion.



Floral decoration at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine during Navratras.

The Maha Yagya was also telecast on Shradha MH One channel from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. daily during Navratras. As was done during the Shardiya Navratras in 2019, this year's other special features of arrangements included bhajan and bhaint performances during Morning and Evening Atka Aarti by the renowned artists, who included Sh. Anup Jalota, Sh. Sonu Nigam, Sh. Lakhbir Singh Lakha, Sh. Lakhwinder Wadali, Ms. Kavita Paudwal, Sh. Vishu Bhatnagar, Sh. Pankaj Dhawan, Ms. Uma Lahari, Sh. Swami Budhiraja, Sh. Vipin Sachdeva, Sh. Vikrant Marwa, Sh. Harbans Lal Bansi, Sh. Udit Narayan and Sh. Mohit Chopra.



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Purna Ahuti being performed at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on Mahanavami.

During March-April 2020 Navratras also, the Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Atka and the area surrounding it were decorated with flowers besides illuminating the Bhawan area with attractive and colourful lights. Shat Chandi Maha Yagya was also organised by the Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine for peace and prosperity, which concluded with *Purna Ahuti* on Ramanavami on 2 April. The Shat Chandi Maha Yagya was telecast from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. daily during Navratras. The live darshans of Maa Vaishno Devi's Pindi Roop every day during Morning and Evening Aarti were commenced during these Navratras which have been continued in view of the demand of the devotees.

7.3 Winter Arrangements

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



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7.4 Opening of Natural Cave

As per prevalent practice, the natural Cave was opened for pilgrims during winter months after performing special pooja. The SDM Bhawan was authorised to regulate the darshan through natural Cave to avoid any inconvenience to the pilgrims. During 2020-21, as many as 63,646 pilgrims had darshan through the natural Cave.



Pilgrims having darshan via natural Cave.

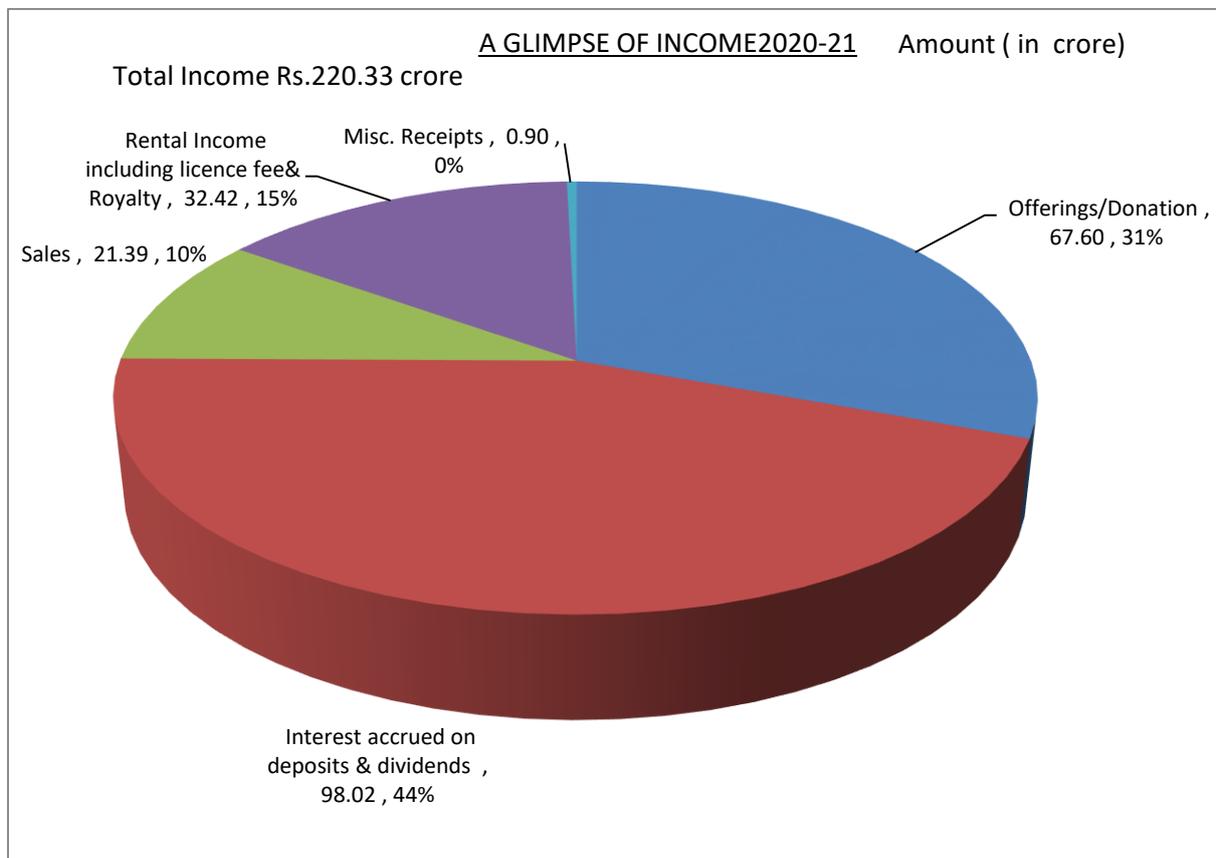


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8. Income and Expenditure

| Income during FY 2020-21 | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| S.No. | Items | Amount (In crore) |
| 1 | Offerings/Donation | 67.60 |
| 2 | Interest accrued on deposits & dividends | 98.02 |
| 3 | Sales (Catering, Bhaint shop, Souvenior shops Gold/ Silver etc) | 21.39 |
| 4 | Rental Income including licence fee& Royalty | 32.42 |
| 5 | Misc. Receipts | 0.90 |
| | Total | 220.33 |

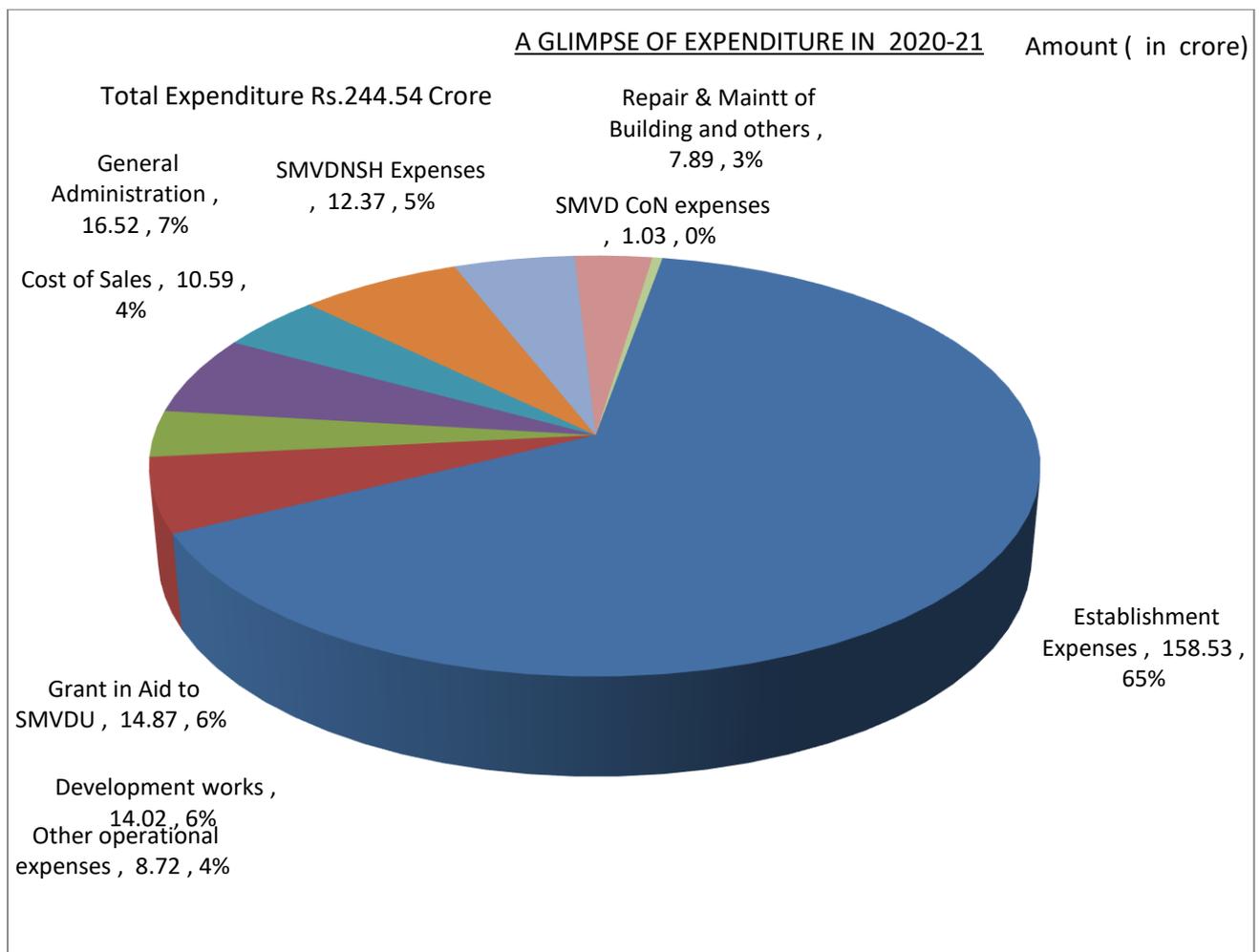
Note; The figures shown in the pie chart are pre- Audited and are subject to change after finalisation of Audit for the F.Y.2020-21





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| Expenditure during FY 2020-21 | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| S.No . | Items | Amount (In crore) |
| 1 | Establishment Expenses | 158.53 |
| 2 | Development works | 14.02 |
| 3 | <i>Other operational expenses</i> | 8.72 |
| 4 | <i>Grant in Aid to SMVDU</i> | 14.87 |
| 5 | Cost of sales(Operational expenses) | 10.59 |
| 6 | General Administration | 16.52 |
| 7 | <i>SMVDNSH Expenses</i> | 12.37 |
| 8 | <i>Repair & Maintt of Building and others</i> | 7.89 |
| 9 | SMVD CoN Expenses | 1.03 |
| | Total | 244.54 |



Note; The figures shown in the pie chart are pre- Audited and are subject to change after finalisation of Audit for the F.Y.2020-21



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9. Audit Report

The Statutory Audit of the Shrine Board's Accounts for the FY 2019-20 has been conducted by M/s S.R. Batliboi & Co. The Statutory Audit for FY 2020-21 is likely to be started in the month of August 2021 and is expected to be completed in the month of October 2021.



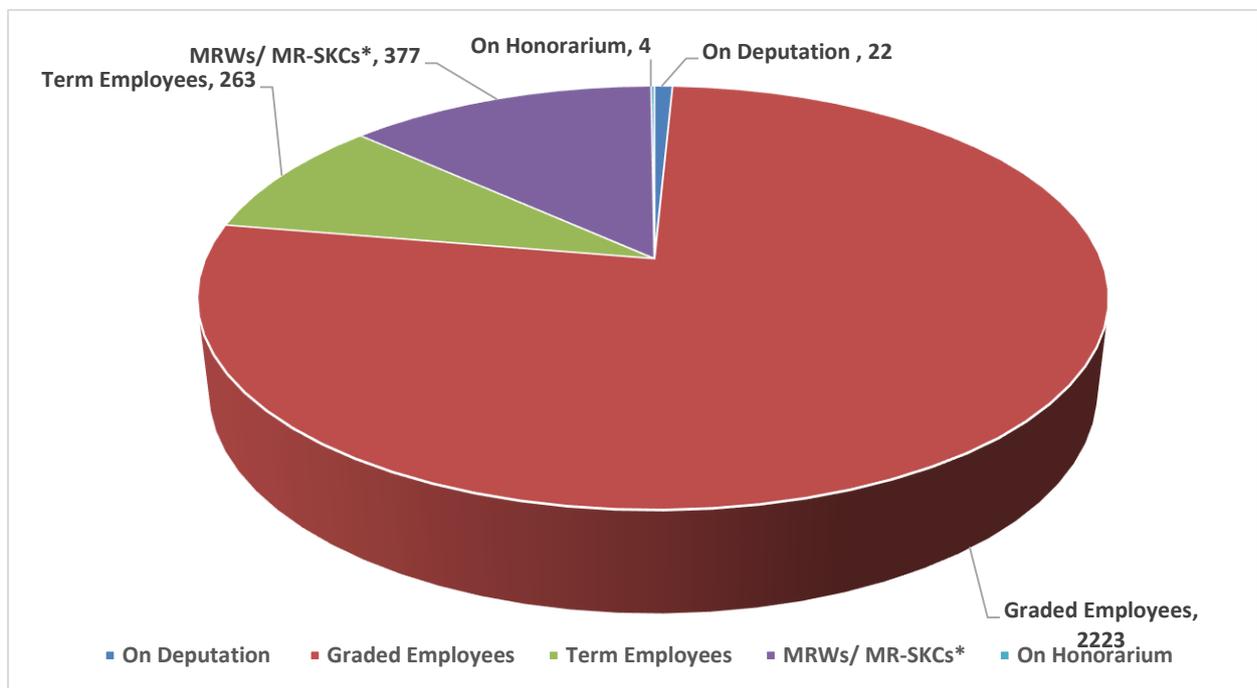
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10. Human Resource Management

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

- **Strength as on 31.03.2021**

| Type of Employment | Manpower Strength |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| On Deputation | 22 |
| Graded Employees | 2223 |
| Term Employees | 263 |
| MRWs/ MR-SKCs* | 377 |
| On Honorarium | 04 |
| Total | 2889 |

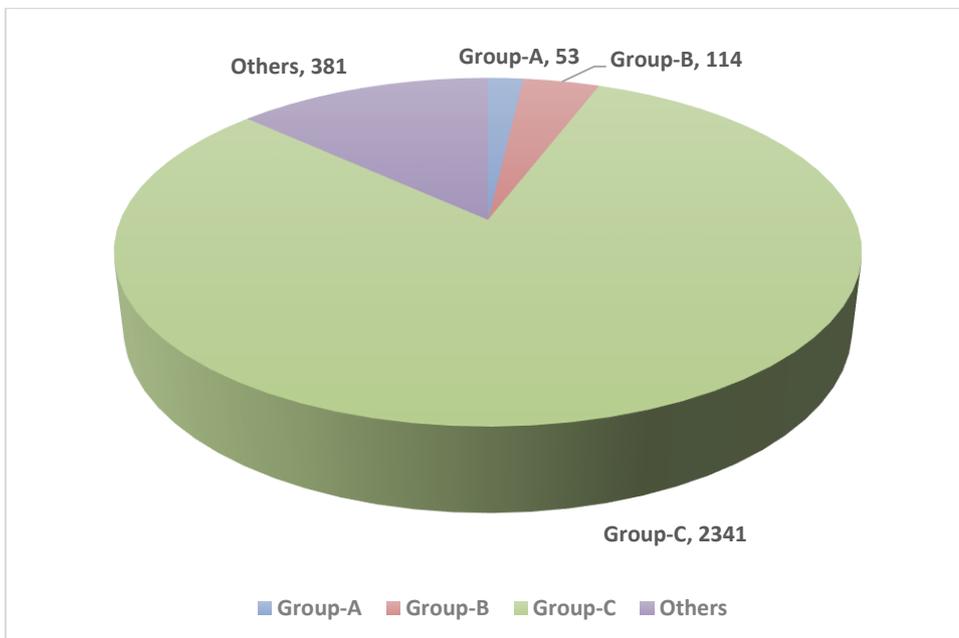


* Muster Roll Workers/Muster Roll Safaikaramcharis



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| Group wise Manpower Strength | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Group-A | 53 |
| Group-B | 114 |
| Group-C | 2341 |
| Others | 381 |
| Total | 2889 |



- During April 2020 to March 2021, 17 employees joined the Board under various categories as under:

On Deputation : 03

On Term Employment : 14



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- During Financial Year 2020-21, 80 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 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 06 |
| 2 | On Superannuation | 0 | 6 | 32 | 0 | 38 |
| 3 | On Resignation | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 08 |
| 4 | Death | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 12 |
| 5 | Other Reasons | 5 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 16 |
| Total | | 14 | 12 | 54 | 0 | 80 |

10.2 Capacity Building

Training and development are an integral part of any organization as these vital components provide continuous learning by enhancing the skills and competencies of employees to face new challenges and broaden their perspective. This aspect results in better performance and outcomes. In furtherance of these objectives, at its 56th Meeting (held on 11-09-2015), the Board had approved a proposal regarding capacity building and skill upgradation of the Board's employees through training programmes imparted by various domain experts. The Board had also approved an annual allocation of Rs. 100.00 lakh for carrying out the skill upgradation programmes for its employees.

Various domain experts and national level institutes and agencies such as National Institute of Disaster Management, National Disaster Response Force, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat, Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad, Art of Living Foundation, Skywalk Solutions, have been associated for imparting quality training programmes in their respective domains.



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The training programmes envisage three sets of trainings:

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

The outcome of trainings is reflected in the APRs of employees.

10.3 Training Programmes.

In view of challenging situation due to COVID-19 pandemic, no such training programmes could be conducted during the year.

10.4 Interactions and Grievance Redressal Camps

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

As part of this mechanism, Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, organised a grievance redressal camp at Adhkuwari on 9 February. He enumerated various measures which have already been taken for the general welfare and career progression of the staff of the Shrine Board and those in the pipeline for addressing their difficulties. Interacting with the staff in regard to their personnel related matters and welfare initiatives for employees, he issued on the spot directions to the concerned to ensure time bound disposal of personnel matters of the employees and addressing other demands projected by



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them. He lauded the efforts made by the officers and staff of the Board to ensure greater facilitation of pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine, which have been widely acclaimed, adding that all of us need to redouble our efforts and no stone should be left unturned to provide best possible services to the pilgrims to make the pilgrimage a memorable experience for them.



CEO Shrine Board interacting with staff during Grievance Redressal Camp held at Adhkuwari.

The CEO also congratulated the staff for the Shrine Board getting recognition at the national level and said that due to the disciplined environment, hard work put in by the staff and the initiatives taken in varied fields, the Shrine Board is being awarded consecutively for the past many years. He also gave appreciation letters to some of the employees as a token of appreciation for their outstanding performance and devotion to duty, particularly the laudable work during the challenging situation created by the pandemic.



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Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEO, SMVDSB, spoke about the aims and objectives of organising such interactions. Among those who participated in the interaction programme included Sh. Deepak Dubey and Sh. Vishavjeet Singh, Dy. CEOs; besides other concerned officers and employees of the Board posted in the Adhkuwari area.

11. Lt Governor pays obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

The Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 20th August paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and prayed for peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

During his visit, the Lt Governor was accompanied by Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; and Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board.



Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.



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Sh. Manoj Sinha, who was on his first visit to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine after taking over as the Lt Governor of J&K UT on 6 August 2020, inspected the wayside facilities put in place by the Shrine Board for facilitation of the pilgrims.

At Bhawan, the Lt Governor inspected the arrangements made by the Board for the pilgrims in view of the resumption of the yatra on 16 August and asked the CEO that all the precautionary measures taken by the Board in connection with the COVID-19 management for the safety and security of the pilgrims and the Shrine Board staff should continue till the situation normalises.

The Lt Governor also directed the CEO for expeditious planning and construction of Durga Bhawan for providing accommodation facilities for the pilgrims. Besides this, the Lt Governor asked for further enhancing accommodation facilities for the pilgrims, maximizing utilisation of IT-enabled services for facilitation of yatris and expediting work on the installation of Video Walls project. He also asked the CEO for enhancing religious activities at the Shrine.

12. Additional facilities for devotees

12.1. Shrine Board takes significant decisions for facilitation of pilgrims Lt Governor launches home delivery of Pooja Prasad for devotees

The Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, formally launched home delivery of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pooja Prasad for devotees who may not be able to visit the famed Hindu pilgrimage, located between three peaked mountains popularly known as 'Triakuta', during the 67th Board meeting at the Raj Bhavan, Jammu on 21 September 2020.

To get Prasad delivered at home packed in sanitized boxes, a devotee can book the Pooja Prasad through Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine



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Board's website. Once the booking is done, the Board ensures that Pooja is performed within 72 hours and Prasad is dispatched to the devotees across the country through speed post for which the Board has entered into an agreement with the Postal Department.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha launching home delivery of Pooja Prasad during 67th meeting of SMVDSB at Raj Bhavan, Jammu.

The Lt Governor, while chairing the first meeting of the Shrine Board since taking over in August, welcomed the Board Members, at the outset. The meeting was attended by the Board Members – H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli, Sh. K. K. Sharma, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Shiv Kumar Sharma, and Sh. K. B. Kachru.

Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor; Sh. Baleswar Rai (Special Invitee); Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; and Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional Chief Executive Officer were also present in the meeting.

The Board reviewed the timely and necessary precautionary measures taken by the CEO Shrine Board in view of the outbreak of coronavirus for ensuring the safety of the visiting pilgrims, staff and the public at large and lauded these proactive initiatives.



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The Lt Governor directed the CEO for phase wise increase in the number of outside UT pilgrims based on objective assessment of the ground situation.

It is pertinent to mention that yatra to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji which was suspended w.e.f. 18 March was resumed from 16 August 2020 and all special Poojas were made available to the devotees like Shradha Suman Vishesh Pooja, Atka Aarti, Hawan, Pooja and other rituals. The other pilgrim facilities including the Battery Operated Vehicles, Passenger Ropeway and Helicopter services were also operated smoothly while following the COVID appropriate behaviour, social distancing norms and other precautionary measures.

The Board undertook a comprehensive review of the major infrastructure development projects of the Shrine Board, including those completed earlier, ongoing and which are in the pipeline, aimed at bringing about further improvement in the facilities for the convenience of the visiting pilgrims. The Lt Governor directed the CEO for completion of ongoing works in a time bound manner for facilitating the pilgrims. He further directed the CEO to explore various online facilities for the pilgrims like performing the Pooja, Hawan and other rituals through online mode during the prevailing situation.

12.2. Lt Governor launches 'Mata Vaishno Devi Mobile App'

The Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, launched a Mobile App for the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar on 15 October.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that the Mobile App will be of immense help to the devotees worldwide to have the live



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darshan of Maa Vaishno Devi besides availing various other facilities made available by the Shrine Board through this medium.



Lt. Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha launching Mata Vaishno Devi Mobile App.

This new initiative has been taken by the Shrine Board with a view to maximising use of available technologies and digitization for the larger facilitation of the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. In the first instance, the Mobile App has been launched on Google Play Store only which will later also be available on IOS platform.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO Shrine Board briefing the Lt Governor said that this App will provide an easy and convenient platform to the devotees to avail different facilities offered by the Shrine Board. Initially, five links have been provided in the App viz., Today's Darshan, Live Aarti, Yatra Registration Parchi, Pooja Prasad (Home Delivery) and Donations. In Today's Darshan Link, the daily Morning and Evening Darshan of the Holy Pindis has been made available to the devotees after Morning and Evening Aarti. The Live webcast of the Atka Aarti performed at the Holy Cave has also been available to the devotees at the fixed timings daily.

Besides, the option of online yatra registration has been made available to the devotees, who wish to undertake the pilgrimage. The online yatra registration is available for the same day as well as advance booking upto 60 days. The facility of Pooja for the pilgrims, in-absentia, has been introduced and the same has become available on this App.



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Upon registration, the pilgrims have the option of getting the Prasad, after performance of Pooja, in-absentia, delivered at their homes. Besides, the option of online donations has also been made available in the App.

The facility of booking of various services like Battery Operated Vehicles, helicopter services, accommodations, online Hawan, etc. will also be made available on this App shortly.

The Lt Governor directed CEO Shrine Board for use of relevant technological interventions to maximise the facilitation for yatris.

12.3. Lt Governor releases Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gold and Silver coins

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 9 November released Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gold and Silver coins ahead of Diwali for millions of devotees worldwide. As many seekers are not able to travel to the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji due to Corona Pandemic, the Shrine Board had decided to make the coins available in Jammu and Delhi as well. The Lt Governor released the coins at the Raj Bhavan, Jammu.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha releasing Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gold and Silver coins at Raj Bhavan, Jammu.



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Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said he is fortunate to have got the opportunity to release Maa Vaishno Devi coins. He said Maa Goddess's prayer from the deepest core of heart brings bliss, peace and prosperity. He stressed that it is important for the people to choose the path of peace in the interest of humanity.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has developed 2g, 5g and 10g Gold and 5g and 10g Silver coins of guaranteed purity. These coins were made available at Souvenir Shops at Bhawan, Katra, Jammu Airport, Kalika Dham Jammu and JK House, 5 Prithviraj Road, New Delhi.

Sh. Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor and Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board were present on the occasion.

12.4. Shrine Board's hi-tech Call Centre for devotees inaugurated

Taking a major leap towards creating a robust response mechanism to address the queries and grievances regarding Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji pilgrimage, the Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 14 January inaugurated a hi-tech, round the clock Call Centre for devotees of the Holy Shrine at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

Terming the Call Centre as yet another initiative of the Shrine Board towards optimum utilization of available technologies for larger facilitation of the pilgrims, the Lt Governor said that the first such facility put in place by the Shrine Board, will be of immense help to the devotees worldwide, as their queries and grievances in regard to the pilgrimage will be addressed by providing them information sought for on real-time basis.

Underscoring the significance of the new facility, the Lt Governor observed that the initiative is aimed at providing much needed assistance



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to the pilgrims to plan their visit to the Holy Shrine, keeping in view the prevailing weather conditions, yatra status, availability of helicopter services, battery operated vehicles, accommodation and other facilities at any given point of time, making their yatra experience more pleasant and memorable.



Lt Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha inaugurating Call Centre set up by Shrine Board at Katra.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, briefed the Lt Governor about the salient features of the Call Centre and the services made available to the devotees therein.

12.5. Lt Governor reviews Master Plan of Bhawan and Extended Shrine Area; Shrine Board-CPWD sign MoU for construction of Durga Bhawan

With a view to enhance the accommodation facilities for pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, the Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, reviewed the Master Plan of Bhawan and Extended Shrine Area and modalities finalised for the construction of 5-



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storey Durga Bhawan at Bhawan area in a meeting held at the Raj Bhavan, Jammu on 18 March, 2021.



Lt. Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha chairing meeting of SMVDSB at Raj Bhavan, Jammu.

The Lt Governor was briefed through a powerpoint presentation given by Prof. Mandeep Singh of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, about Master Plan of Bhawan, salient features of Durga Bhawan, Planning and Design for intermediate locations, Architectural Codes and Infrastructure related strategies and way forward alongwith detailed architectural and structural drawings of Durga Bhawan.

The Lt Governor directed the CEO of the Shrine Board to ensure expeditious and timely completion of Durga Bhawan so that the pilgrims could take benefit of this facility at the earliest. He further directed that a PERT chart be formulated and strictly followed for time bound construction of this high utility pilgrim-centric facility. He also gave instructions for ensuring timely implementation of various components of the Master Plan for establishing infrastructural facilities for the visiting pilgrims in a planned manner.



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Lt Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha at MoU signing ceremony of SMVDSB and CPWD.

The Central Public Works Department is the construction agency for the Durga Bhawan. In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the CEO SMVDSB, Sh. Ramesh Kumar and Special Director General CPWD, Sh. Anant Kumar, in presence of the Lt Governor on the occasion.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli and Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Board Members; and Sh. Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; were present during the meeting.

12.6. **Shrine Board starts Refreshment Unit at Katra Helipad**

With a view to make available quality snacks, hot and cold beverages and other eatables for the pilgrims, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board set up a Catering Outlet at the Serli Helipad at Katra. Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board inaugurated this facility for the pilgrims on 22 December amidst performing of pooja and other rituals.



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CEO Shrine Board Inaugurating Refreshment Unit at Katra Helipad.

The pilgrims, particularly those utilising the helicopter services between Katra and Sanjichhat helipads, have been largely facilitated with the operationalising of this Refreshment Unit. Food, snacks and beverages have been made available to the pilgrims at this Unit on 'no profit no loss' basis.

13. Lt Governor felicitates students of SMVD Gurukul

The Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 14 March felicitated the students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul for securing 1st positions in Sampurnanand Sanskrit University. Master Anmol Sharma, student of 9th class and Master Ankit Sharma, Shastri Part-III of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, were felicitated for securing first positions in the entire university in annual examinations of class 8th and Shastri Part-III respectively, conducted by the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, with which the Gurukul is affiliated.

The Lt Governor congratulated the students for their outstanding achievements and bringing laurels to the Gurukul. He further asked the Shrine Board to continue providing excellent teaching and other facilities to the Gurukul so that the hardwork of students could result in greater performances in academics and co-curricular activities. Master Anmol Sharma was awarded



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Vakratund Shukul Swaran Padak, while Master Ankit Sharma was awarded Shrimati Shashikant Sharma Swaran Padak by the university.



Lt Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha felicitating Gurukul students.

During his visit to Katra, the Lt Governor was accompanied by Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

The Lt Governor also reviewed the facilities put in place by the Shrine Board for facilitation of the visiting pilgrims and took stock of the various ongoing and upcoming infrastructure development projects. He directed the CEO Shrine Board for completion of all the ongoing projects within envisaged timelines to further augment the facilities for the pilgrims.

The Lt Governor also visited the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum. He prayed for peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

14. Shrine Board bags 1st prize for water conservation and management

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board bagged the First Prize of the 'National Water Awards-2019'. The Award was given by the Ministry of Jal



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Shakti, Government of India, in recognition of the significant strides made by the Shrine Board to promote water conservation and proper management of water in the category of 'Best Institution/ Resident Welfare Association/ Religious Organisation for Successful Campus Usage'.



CEO Shrine Board receiving award through online mode.

The Award ceremony was organised through virtual mode on 11th and 12th November, 2020 from New Delhi. Sh. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony of the Award distribution ceremony, while the Awards were given by Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti and Sh. Rattan Lal Kataria, Union Minister of State for Ministry of Jal Shakti. Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board received the award through online mode.

The Shrine Board besides making concerted efforts to provide the best possible facilities to the pilgrims is, interalia, taking continuing initiatives and adopting best water management practices and techniques for water conservation. These include construction of water harvesting ponds and undertaking other works in the slopes of Trikuta Hills, installation of Water ATMs, recycling of Sewage Treatment Plants water for reuse in flushing of toilet blocks, installation of waterless urinals and rooftop rainwater harvesting etc. The Board



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has been promoting rainwater harvesting by taking a large number of other measures also.

It is pertinent to mention that the Shrine Board is being awarded consecutively for the past many years in recognition of its initiatives taken in varied spheres. In 2019, Shrine Board received the 'Best Swachh Iconic Place' award under the initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission of Government of India, while in 2017 the Board received the 'Special Swachh Iconic Place' award under Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign of the Government of India. In 2018, the Board was awarded with the Cleanest Religious Place award by the India Today Group.

15. Social Support Initiatives

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

15.1 Shrine Board's Medical Support Policy

During the Financial Year 2020-21, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board spent an amount of Rs. 208.29 lakh under its Medical Support Policy for providing Medical Support to various categories of patients. These categories include pilgrims, Shrine Board's employees and their dependents, students of the College of Nursing and Gurukul, villagers (of Kakryal, Sira, Kotla and Sool villages) and the Landowners (whose land was acquired for the setting up of SMVDU and SMVDNSH) and to poor and needy patients in general (under Arogaya Yojna, a component of the Medical Support Policy of the Shrine Board). The Board made the expenditure as per the details given below:



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| S. No. | Category | OPD / IPD | FY/ 2020-21 | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | | | (Apr20- Mar 21) | |
| | | | No. | Expenditure (Rs.in lakh) |
| 1 | Pilgrims | OPD/ IPD | 42 | 20.36 |
| 2 | Landowners | OPD | 121 | 2.38 |
| 3 | Employees and their dependents | OPD | 4263 | 48.63 |
| | | IPD | 609 | 120.58 |
| 4 | Students of SMVDCoN | OPD | 83 | 1.31 |
| | | IPD | 1 | 0.50 |
| 5 | Students of Gurukul | OPD | 17 | 0.33 |
| | | IPD | 2 | 0.36 |
| 6 | Gratuitous Relief | OPD/IPD | 22 | 13.84 |
| 7 | Special Accident Cases | IPD | 0 | 0.00 |
| Total: | | | 5160 | 208.29 |

16. Events during the year

16.1 Shrine Board celebrates 35th Foundation Day

Performing of Pooja, Havan and Yagya marked the celebration of 35th Foundation Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on 30 August. These religious ceremonies were organised at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Katra, Jammu and other locations in which the staff of the Shrine Board and the pilgrims participated. Employees of the Shrine Board took pledge on this occasion to perform their duties with sincerity and devotion.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, on the auspicious occasion of the Foundation Day, congratulated the staff of the Shrine Board and impressed upon them to work with utmost zeal and dedication for providing continuously improving facilities to the pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. He also gave details of various major infrastructure development projects completed and the facilities put in place by the Shrine Board for facilitation of the pilgrims. It is pertinent to recall that the Board was formed on this day in 1986.



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CEO, SMVDSB participating in Pooja and Havan organized on 35th Foundation Day of the Shrine Board.

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

16.2 Annual Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, celebrated its Annual Day on 30 August. Pooja, Havan and other activities were organised as part of the function.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council for Gurukul; Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Prof. Y. K. Mishra and Prof. Vishwamurty Shastri, Members of the Governing Council; Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEO of the Shrine Board and Administrator of the Gurukul; besides the faculty, staff and more than one hundred students of the Gurukul participated in the function through online mode.



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Dr. Bhan congratulated the management, staff and students of the Gurukul on the Annual Day function of the institution and lauded the students for excelling in academics as well as in co-curricular activities.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO of the Shrine Board also congratulated the entire faculty and students and appreciated that besides organising the online classes, special online practical sessions for Yagya, Havan, Karam Kand etc. were organised for the students with the objective of imparting them practical training.

The students and teachers of the Gurukul presented Vedic and Puranic Mangalacharan and bhajans through online mode. Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal of the Gurukul presented annual report of the institution.

17. Allied Institutions

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

17.1 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University

Established by the Shrine Board in 2004, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University is an autonomous, highly technical and fully residential university. A very high emphasis has been laid on strengthening of infrastructural facilities and developing the varsity as a centre of excellence in teaching and research. As a consequence, it has witnessed



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a remarkable growth over the past 17 years. The university is spread on a sprawling and picturesque campus in the backdrop of Trikuta Hills at Kakryal, near Katra. The university has highly qualified faculty from various parts of the country. It has been equipped with hi-tech labs, hostels and other buildings to provide excellent enabling environment and wherewithal of teaching and research to the students who seek admission in this institution of higher and technical learning from across the country. The students passing out from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University are serving the society and the world at large with distinction. The university is scaling new heights of glory which is evident from the constant improvement in its ranking among the engineering and management institutions in NIRF with every passing year.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University

17.2 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul

The Shrine Board also established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul at Charan Paduka, near Katra in 2010, to provide quality modern education at this Gurukul along with Vedic and Sanskrit education. This initiative has been taken in furtherance of the duty of the Board to make arrangements for imparting of religious instructions and general education. The emphasises is also on skill upgradation of students by



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imparting practical training to them in Vedic Mantras, Karam Kand, Jyotish etc. to enhance their employability. The Gurukul has also been upgraded and is providing education upto Shastri level from the 2017-18 academic session for which Gurukul Phase-II was constructed. Presently 172 students are studying in classes 6th to Shastri Part-III and the first batch of 10 students of Shastri passed out in 2020, all holding 1st division. Gurukul is fully residential, affiliated to the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, a leading Sanskrit University in the country. All the students are provided education, boarding, lodging, uniforms, books and other required facilities at the cost of the Board. Given the excellent infrastructural and other allied facilities provided by the Shrine Board to impart top quality education to the Gurukul students, they are bringing laurels in both academics and co-curricular activities year after year by their excellent performance.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul

17.3 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing

Continuing with its another initiative in the field of education, the Shrine Board established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing



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(SMVDCoN) at Kakryal which started functioning from July 2016. The objective of setting up the College of Nursing is to provide quality nursing education of highest standard to the students so that after passing out from this institution they serve the humanity with utmost commitment and distinction. The establishment of the Nursing College is yet another testimony of the Shrine Board towards its contribution to the society. The College of Nursing is approved by the Indian Nursing Council and J&K Nursing Council and 60 students are admitted to this institution every year. The SMVDCoN is affiliated to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. Besides having a highly qualified faculty, the institution is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure. The students passing-out from SMVDCoN are getting excellent job placements in the leading health institutions of the country. Of a total of 58 students comprising First Batch (2016-20) of the College, 40 of them were placed with the Narayana Health Group of Hospitals, while four secured placements at the Max Hospital, Dehradun, whereas the remaining students opted for higher studies.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing

17.4 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital set up by the Shrine Board at Kakryal, near Katra, caters to the patients across



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more than 20 different specialities with focus on cardiac sciences and oncology. This 230-bedded tertiary care hospital, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in April 2016, is equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment facilities and provides highly specialised and quality healthcare at affordable cost. The hospital, fully equipped with high-end computerised diagnostic and treatment equipments including Linear Accelerator, Brachy Therapy, Gamma Camera, MRI, PET CT, CT Scan, Cath Lab, Endoscopy and Broncho therapy, most modern Dialysis Unit and other related facilities, has well equipped Critical Care Ambulances and superspecialist doctors and highly trained nurses, paramedics and other staff. Continuing initiatives are being taken for further enhancing its operational capacities and standards of patient care in tune with the emerging and futuristic requirements by augmenting and upgrading the wherewithal in the identified specialties. The establishment of this Superspeciality Hospital has completely transformed the healthcare scenario in the area with people from within and outside Jammu and Kashmir taking benefit of this facility.



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital



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During the recent COVID pandemic; particularly during the 2nd wave erupting in March, 2021, the SMVDNSH played a very crucial role by providing commendable healthcare services to the society. Consequently, the Hospital won immense laurels for successfully handling a large number of vulnerable COVID cases and emerged in the public perception as a life-saving hospital in the entire region. During FY 2020-21, a total of 783 COVID cases were provided treatment at SMVDNSH.

On the basis of experience gained during the 1st and the 2nd wave of COVID cases, the hospital is taking determined steps for augmenting its preparedness to combat the possible third wave of COVID cases (with youngsters expected to be more vulnerable). In this regard the hospital shall be shortly having its own LMO (liquefied Medical Oxygen) facility, for which all the required infrastructure has already been created. In addition, the hospital also has plans to procure and put in place additional Adult / Pediatric ventilators, additional oxygen generation plant of a larger capacity, engaging more number of medicos etc.

17.5 Shrine Board's Sports Complex

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



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



Shrine Board's Sports Complex

Major activities of Shrine Board's Sports Complex.

Archery

The archers of the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra won 69 medals at the 3-day J&K Archery Championship which was organised by Archery Association of J&K at Jammu during 17th - 20th February. 24 archers trained and groomed at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra participated in all the categories of this championship and won 33 gold, 20 silver and 16 bronze medals.



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Shrine Board Archers who participated in J&K Archery Championship, Katra

Sh. Rakesh Kumar and Ms. Jyoti Balyan, the two outstanding para archers trained and nurtured at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex have brought laurels to the country and J&K UT by winning one gold and two silver medals under different categories in the 7th FAZZA Para Archery World Ranking Tournament held in Dubai recently. Sh. Rakesh Kumar clinched gold medal in compound men open, while in compound women open Ms. Jyoti Baliyan won silver medal. She also secured silver medal in mixed team event under compound women open.

During 2020-21 the notable achievement of the Shrine Board's Sports Complex was that Sh. Rakesh Kumar and Ms. Jyoti Baliyan, archers who were trained at SMVDSB Sports Complex qualified for the Tokyo Paralympics-2020 which was, however, postponed to 2021 in view of the challenging situation due to COVID-19 pandemic.



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Archers of the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra who qualified for Tokyo Paralympic -2020

Shooting

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's Sports Complex shooters participated in 10th J&K UT Championship at General Zorawar Singh Rifle Club Bari Brahmana, Jammu w.e.f. 26-02-2021 to 02-03-2021. In the said Championship, our 11 Shooters were awarded 03 Gold, 03 Silver and 05 Bronze medals.

Judo

Three-days long J&K UT Judo Championship, organised by J&K Judo Association (JKJA) under the aegis of J&K Olympic Association (JKOA) and sponsored by J&K Sports Council (JKSC) commenced at Indoor Complex, MA Stadium w.e.f. 26.03.2021 to 28.03.2021. Twenty Judokas of Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra participated in the event and won 03 gold, 06 silver and 11 Bronze medals in different weight categories



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22 Judokas of Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra participated in Reasi District Judo Championship held at Amba Kids School, Panthal, Katra on 11-03-2021 & 12-03-2021 wherein judokas trained at Shrine Board's Sports Complex won 11 Gold, 4 Silver and 07 Bronze medals in different weight categories. Master Tushar Sharma, Judo trainee of Shrine Board's Sports Complex was declared as best Judo player of District Reasi.



Winners of Judokas of Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra

Athletics

Four Athletes of Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra participated in Cross Country Championship trial held at MAM Stadium Jammu on 6.02.2021 & 07.02.2021 wherein, all the 04 athletes qualified for National Cross Country Championship.

State Girls Federation of India (SGFI) organized girls competition on 14th & 15th Feb 2021 at Jammu University, Jammu in which 04 Girl Athletes of Shrine Board's Sports Complex participated and won 04 Gold, 02 Silver & 01 Bronze Medal.



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District level 3rd Athletics Championship was organized at Shrine Board's Sports Complex on 21-02-2021 & 22-02-2021 in which 95 students from different education institutions i.e. Govt. Schools, Private Schools & Govt. Degree College, Reasi of different age categories viz. under 14, 17, 19 and open categories (boys & girls) participated. 21 Athletes for Shrine Board's Sports Complex won 24 Gold, 12 Silver and 6 Bronze medals in the said championship.



District Athletic participants at SMVD Sports Complex



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And the efforts continue.....

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

Jai Mata Di !

