



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

# Trikuta

## A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1 - Issue 1

January - March 2018

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### Hon'ble Chairman's Message



RAJ BHAVAN  
JAMMU-180001

The Shrine Board has been striving for continually improving facilities and arrangements for the pilgrims who visit the holy Cave Shrine. The Board has also been endeavouring to promote the welfare of the residents of Katra and the villages located close to the Shrine, particularly of the Baridar families whose children are provided support for pursuing education from the primary to master's level and beyond.

I am happy to learn that the Chief Executive Officer has decided to bring out a Newsletter, "Trikuta", for regularly disseminating information about the major activities of the Board.

I commend the "Trikuta" editorial team and wish success to its endeavours.

(N.N. Vohra)  
Chairman,  
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

26<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Raj Bhavan, Jammu

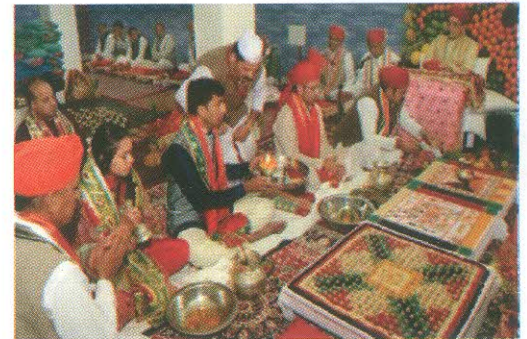
### Over 81.78 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at Vaishno Devi Shrine

During 2017, 81,78,318 pilgrims paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji, thereby registering an increase of 5.88% over the previous year figure of 77,23,721.

16,85,959 pilgrims paid obeisance at the Shrine during the first quarter of 2018 as against 14,67,011 during the corresponding period of last year, thereby registering an increase of 14.92%. Over 2.26 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance during the holy Navratras from 18-25 March.

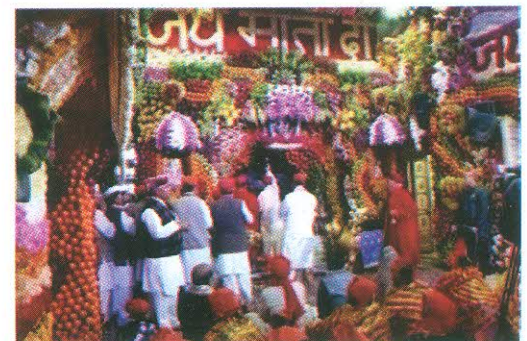
As per past practice the natural Cave was opened on Makar Sankranti for about a month to enable the devotees to have darshan during the lean season of yatra.

### Shat Chandi Maha Yagya held at Bhawan



Shat Chandi Maha Yagya concluded with Purna Ahuti on March, 25

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organized by the Board at the Holy Cave Shrine during Navratras for peace and prosperity, concluded with *Purna Ahuti* on the auspicious occasion of Ramanavami on March 25.



The Bhawan and Atka area decorated with flowers during Navratras in March, 2018



During Navratras the Bhawan, Atka and the area surrounding it was specially decorated with flowers brought from various parts of the country and abroad. In addition, several arrangements were in place to facilitate smooth pilgrimage of devotees alongside resplendent decoration befitting this auspicious occasion.

### **Governor reviews Shrine Board Projects**



Governor N. N. Vohra inspecting Passenger Ropeway Project on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018

During January-March 2018, Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, reviewed the ongoing development works thrice on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 7<sup>th</sup> March and 17<sup>th</sup> March.

The Governor inspected work on the installation of Passenger Ropeway between Bhawan and Bhairon Ghati, visited the new floor created on the terrace of Manokamna Bhawan-II for establishing Automatic Fare Collection Counters and Gateway, Waiting Area for the Ropeway passengers and ramp leading to the Ropeway Cabins. He directed that proper regulatory mechanisms should be put in place and the two way speed of the Ropeway synchronised with the maximum haltage period at Bhawan Temple to prevent any overcrowding.

The Governor also reviewed the work on installation of Material Ropeway between Siar Dabri and Bhawan besides construction of shelter sheds on Tarakote Marg.

Governor took stock of arrangements for pilgrims in view of expected rush during Navratras and the summer months ahead.

The Governor paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine along with the First Lady, Mrs. Usha Vohra, and prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the State.

### **Board Members' tenure extended**

Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, has extended the tenure of the Board Members till further orders, upto the date when the Shrine Board is re-constituted.

They are (in alphabetical order) Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd); Shri E. Sreedharan; Shri H. L. Maini; Mr. Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli; Smt. Sudha Murty; Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria, IAS (Retd); Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma; and Major General Shiv Kumar Sharma (Retd).

### **Important orders and circulars**

Shri B.B. Vyas, IAS, Member, SMVDSB, was appointed as Chairman of Governing Council of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul and Governing Body of SMVDNSH. Orders to this effect were issued with the approval of Chairman SMVDSB on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018, respectively.

### **Important decisions of 62<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at Raj Bhavan, Jammu, under the chairmanship of Governor N. N. Vohra, where certain momentous decisions were taken. These, interalia, include approval of Master Plan for Bhawan and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing and Architectural design of Durga Bhawan, prepared by School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. The Board enhanced scholarship amount being provided to meritorious students of erstwhile Baridar families and quantum of financial assistance given for celebration of marriage of their daughters. Besides scheme for girl children of 19 remote villages of Bhomag area and scholarship scheme for outstanding sports persons was approved. The Annual Greening Plan and annual budget of Shrine Board's Sports Complex, SMVD Gurukul and SMVD College of Nursing was also approved.



## Governor felicitates toppers of SMVD Gurukul



Governor N.N. Vohra felicitating toppers of SMVD Gurukul at Raj Bhavan on 05-03-2018

Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, felicitated 9 outstanding students of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, for their excellent performance in academics, at a function held at the Raj Bhavan on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

Governor presented appreciation letters, a set of the commemorative coins of Shrine Board and cash prizes to Goutam Sharma; Shubham Sharma; Anish Sharma; Mohit Sharma; Ankit Sharma; Prikshit Sharma; Nand Lal; Raghav Ramotra and Gourav Sharma.

While congratulating the students for the laurels won by them, Governor complimented Dr. S. S. Bloeria, former Chairman, Governing Council of Gurukul, Sh. B. B. Vyas, Chairman, Governing Council of Gurukul, Prof. Vishwamurty Shastri, Director, SMVD Gurukul, and Member, Governing Council of the Gurukul, for successfully guiding the Gurukul's functioning and for the excellent standards achieved by it. Governor expressed appreciation of the work put in by the Acharyas and teachers for imparting education of very high standard to the students.

Sh. Umang Narula, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Dr. M. K. Kumar, Additional CEO; Sh. Pankaj Gupta, Administrator of the Gurukul; Vice Principal, Acharyas, award-winning students and their parents were present on the occasion.

## Shrine Board Gurukul students win laurels at National level Sanskrit Shastriya Contest



SMVD Gurukul students in Computer Lab

Master Goutam Sharma, a student of 10<sup>th</sup> class of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, won Gold Medal at the National Level Kavya Kanth Path at the 56<sup>th</sup> All India Sanskrit Shastriya Contest which was held at Rashtriya Sanskrit Sanasthan, Eklavya Campus, Agartala, Tripura from 18 - 21 January 2018. Master Shubham Sharma of 11<sup>th</sup> class and Master Anish Sharma of 10<sup>th</sup> class, also won the Silver Medal and Vashishath Award in Amarkosh Kanth Path and Ashathadhyai Kanth Path, respectively, in this competition.

## Republic Day celebrated at Katra



Dr. M. K. Kumar, Adl. CEO, SMVDSB hoisting tricolour on 69<sup>th</sup> Republic Day at Katra

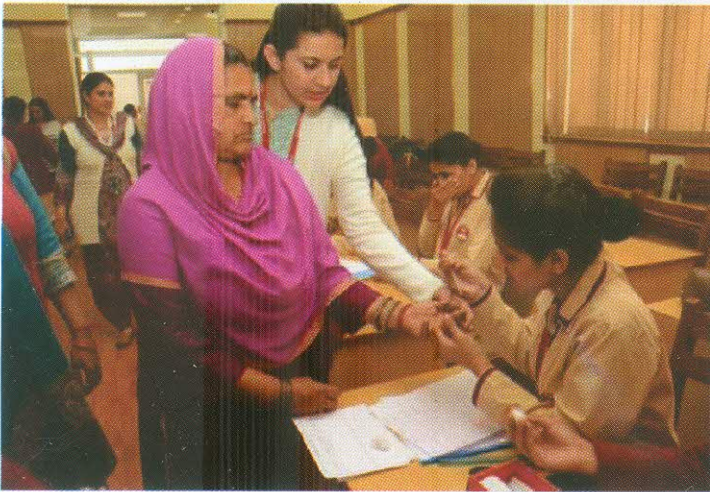
The 69<sup>th</sup> Republic Day was celebrated with traditional fervour and gaiety at Katra.

The main function was held at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, where Dr. M. K. Kumar, Additional CEO, hoisted the tricolour and took



salute at an impressive march-past by 30 contingents drawn from CRPF, NCC Boys and Girls, Scouts and Guides, and various educational institutions. The students of various educational institutions presented a captivating cultural programme on this occasion.

### **Celebration of International Women's Day**



Students of Nursing College conducting health checkup on International Women's Day on March 8

As part of celebration of International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, SMVD College of Nursing, Kakryal, organised health screening camp for women employees of the Shrine Board at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra. The women employees were screened for vital signs like HB estimation and Blood Sugar and given basic awareness on health and sanitation issues. A similar awareness camp was also held at Kakryal to commemorate this day.

### **5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Governing Council of Shrine Board's Sports Complex**



5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Shrine Board's Sports Complex held at Katra on 17<sup>th</sup> February

5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Council of Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra, was held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The meeting chaired by Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Sports Complex, was also attended by Sh. Umang Narula, Chief Executive Officer and Sh. Anshul Garg, Additional CEO. Prominent sportspersons - Ms. Ashwani Nachappa, former International Athlete; Sh. Sanjeeva Singh, former International Archer; Sh. Samaresh Jung, International Shooter; Sh. Kuldeep Handoo, eminent Wushu player and Chief Coach of Indian Team, all of whom are members of the Governing Council, participated in the animated deliberations. Sh. Ranjit Kalra, Member, J&K State Sports Council, attended the meeting as a Special Invitee.

The Council approved the calendar of activities for Sports Complex for the year 2018-19 that includes summer and winter coaching camps in identified sports and games.

### **Activities at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex**

During January 2018, a 15-day winter coaching camp was organised by Shrine Board at its Sports Complex with the intent of honing skills of budding sportspersons of the area. Chess, Carrom, Badminton, Volleyball, Tug of War and Table Tennis tournaments were organised for Shrine Board employees during the period. The coaching camps were also organised in different disciplines like Archery, Basketball, Rifle Shooting for the SMVD University students.



Archers in action at Shrine Board's Complex



## Training Programme on Sanitation



Staff participating in Sanitation Training Programme

A series of training programmes was organised through the experts of M/s Organica Biotech Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai and M/s Sealed Air Gurgaon for Sanitation Supervisors to acquaint them with mechanised cleaning and use of organic liquid solution (made from flower and plant extract) in effective cleaning with emphasis on water conservation. A 4-day training programme was also organised for the Sanitation Supervisors at M/s Organica Biotech Pvt. Ltd. Chembur, Mumbai from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

A team of Board officials associated with sanitation has been nominated as Master Trainers to further impart in-house professional trainings to the sanitation workforce in their concerned sectors.



Special sanitation drive organized during Navratras

## HR Initiatives for building Capacities of Staff

For enhancing skills, building capacities, broadening knowledge base of the Shrine Board employees and efficacious delivery mechanism to facilitate the pilgrims, high importance is being



Training programme on capacity building of staff held on March 8

given to their training needs. In furtherance of these objectives, the Board organised 68 training programmes, workshops, seminars and conferences by various domain experts and national level organisations during 2017, thereby benefitting 1970 employees. These, interalia, include IIM, NIELIT, ITDC, SMVDU.

The training programmes delved on the important subjects like basic life support, health and hygiene, disaster risk reduction, computer skills, construction safety etc.

During January-March 2018, various training programmes were conducted in areas like computer skills, Basic Disaster Management, First-Aid, Refresher Course for Pujaris of the Shrine Board, benefitting 427 employees.

## Disaster Management Training Programme for employees



Shrine Board staff participating in Disaster Management training programme on March 5



As part of its continuing effort towards Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives, training programme on Basic Disaster Management and First Aid was organised from 15 January to 18 January 2018 for the employees of the Board in which 30 employees were trained. A series of camps was also organised for 169 shortlisted employees including women 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 Shrine area and imparting 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) and later conducted joint exercises with Police and CRPF. The training was imparted by the experts of SDRF from Reasi and Jammu and in-house Master Trainers.



A view of Mock Drill organised at Bhawan on March 28

A joint exercise was conducted with 30 volunteers from District Administration on 22 March 2018 in which focus was on Fire Fighting. Besides, a 26-member team from NDRF Bathinda visited Shrine Area and conducted joint mock exercises on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March with Shrine Board, Police and CRPF, to analyse and measure the state of readiness and testing of the effectiveness of the emergency response plan, preparedness and alertness of the stakeholders.

## Fire fighting units set up at major Yatra locations

On the directions of Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, in-house fire fighting units have been established at major Yatra locations – Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Tarakote and Niharika, Katra.

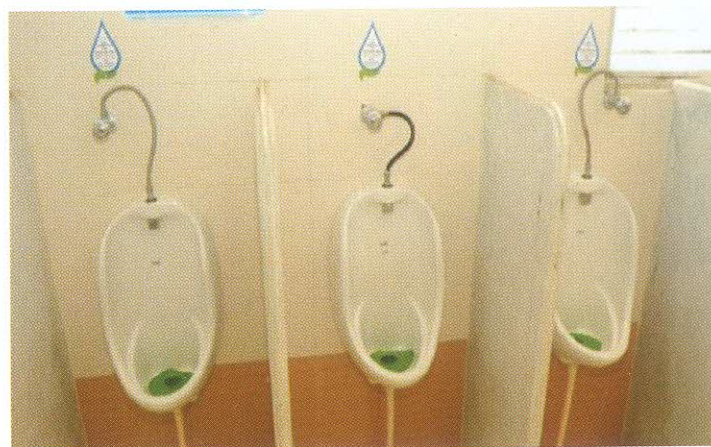


In-house fire fighting units established by Shrine Board

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.

A set of Standard Operating Procedures is in place for the best use of the emergency equipment. The Board has also established dedicated fire hydrants at Adhkuwari and Bhawan.

## Waterless Urinals



Waterless Urinals

All along the track in toilet blocks and residential buildings of Shrine Board, more than 324 urinal



Pods have been constructed, and the same have been converted as 'waterless', thereby saving more than 3.5 crore litres of water annually. Waterless urinals have also successfully controlled the malodour from the urinals/washrooms, which has helped in providing Yatries clean and hygienic urinals/washrooms.

### **Prohibition on use of plastic material and technology adopted for its scientific disposal**



Adoption of technology for scientific disposal of plastic material

Incentive Based Scheme has been operationalized for collection and disposal of PET bottles. Under this scheme, sanitation workforce is encouraged to collect and shift the bottles and other plastic materials to collection centres. The PET bottles generated are first shredded and the final disposal is carried out through an open auction.

An order prohibiting the use of plastic in Shrine area stands issued on 17 October 2015, directing Unit Heads to ensure that no Yatri or member of staff carries any polythene material on the Yatra track. This was further reiterated via a notice issued on 16 January 2016 prohibiting use of plastic material, including plastic/polythene carry bags, polythene made rain coats, styrofoam or plastic made disposable cups/plates etc., for storing and packaging any item in the Shrine area.

### **Governing Body of SMVDCoN reconstituted**

The Governing Body of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing has been re-constituted with Maj. Gen. (Retd.) S.K. Sharma, as Chairman; Shri Umang Narula, IAS, CEO, SMVDSB, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government,

Health & Medical Education Department, Govt. of J&K, Dr. V. Verma, Dean, SMVDU and Dr. J. P. Singh, Sr. Consultant (Neuro Surgery), SMVDNSH, as Members; Dr. (Brig.) M. M. Harjai, Administrator, SMVDCoN Convener, and Mrs. Shailla Cannie, Principal, SMVDCoN as Co-convener.

### **Nursing Fest-2018**



Glimpses of Inter-College Nursing Fest-2018

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Kakryal, organised a 2-day Inter-College Competition-Nursing Fest-“Tarang-2018” on 23-24 March in which six Nursing Colleges of the State participated. The events organised included debate, quiz, poster making competition, sports and cultural programmes.

Maj. Gen. Sunita Kapoor, VSM (Retd.) inaugurated the event at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University while Maj. Gen. Shiv Kumar Sharma, AVSM (Retd.) gave away prizes at the valedictory function at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

### **Children administered polio drops at Shrine Board's Medical Units**

Over 3800 children in the age group of 0-5 years were administered polio drops at the 6 Medical Units of the Shrine Board on the track and in the Bhawan area besides specially set up counter at Darshani Deodi during pulse polio immunization programmes held from 28-30 January and

