



Trikuta

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Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

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Hon'ble Lt. Governor Inaugurates New Helipad at Katra and Dedicates Vaishnavi Bhawan to Pilgrims

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the state-of-the-art New Helipad at Village Hutt, Katra and dedicated the newly constructed Vaishnavi Bhawan at the Holy Shrine for devotees on May 21, 2026, marking a significant enhancement in pilgrim infrastructure and facilities.



Hon'ble Lt. Governor inaugurating New Vaishnavi Bhawan at Bhawan



The modern heliport facility, developed by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) in collaboration with Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, has been designed in accordance with DGCA safety and operational standards. The helipad will be used for heli operations between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Shri Shiv Khori Shrine while boosting religious tourism in the region. The project includes a helipad, expanded passenger terminal, hangar, approach road, parking, security infrastructure and other allied facilities, aimed at enhancing safety, operational efficiency and pilgrim convenience.

a dedicated connecting lift to Parvati Bhawan. The project was completed in a record period of two years.

To ensure accessibility and convenience, the building is equipped with five lifts, including three passenger lifts, one service lift and one connecting lift linking the facility with Parvati Bhawan.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor observed that the new facility would significantly improve pilgrim amenities by providing modern and comfortable accommodation to cater to increasing number of devotees visiting the Holy Shrine.



Hon'ble Lt. Governor Inaugurating New Helipad

On the occasion, Hon'ble Lt. Governor stated that the new heliport would streamline helicopter operations, improve passenger safety and comfort, besides, cater to the growing demand for heli-services among pilgrims.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor also dedicated the newly constructed Vaishnavi Bhawan, developed under the Bhawan Master Plan to enhance pilgrim accommodation capacity. Built over an area of approximately 45,784 sq. ft., the facility comprises 50 well-furnished rooms, reception and waiting areas, staff facilities, a Bhojanalaya and five lifts, including

Also present on the occasion were esteemed Members of the Shrine Board, Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IG, Jammu Zone; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO; Alok Kumar Maurya, Addl. CEO, SMVDSB, Kumar Abhishek, DC Reasi; senior officials of the Shrine Board and District Administration.

He also paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine and prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of all.



LG Chairs High-Level Meeting for Establishment of International Museum of Goddess at Katra

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT also Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Shri Manoj Sinha chaired a high-level meeting on May 21 to review plans for establishing a state-of-the-art

The Chairman suggested deputing a team of experts to visit various sacred Shaktipeeths proposed to be featured in the museum.

Envisioned as both; a spiritual sanctuary and a premier centre of knowledge, the museum will feature an integrated library and research centre aimed at promoting India's cultural, traditional and spiritual heritage among future generations.



Hon'ble Lt. Governor chairs the Special Meeting

International Museum of Goddess at Katra, envisioned as a global spiritual and cultural landmark dedicated to Shakti traditions.

The proposed museum will offer pilgrims an immersive understanding of Mata Shakti through the integration of modern technology, artifacts and sacred iconography. The museum will prominently showcase the 51 Shakti Peethas, the nine divine Swaroops (Navadurga) of Maa Durga, the revered deities of Jammu & Kashmir, as well as the principal deities worshipped across the various States and Union Territories of India, thereby reflecting the country's rich spiritual and cultural heritage. Preparatory measures including the launch of a dedicated website for global suggestions, study visits to leading museums and identification of domain experts, have already been initiated.

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor felicitates Para-Archer Payal Nag



Hon'ble Lt. Governor presenting a Certificate to Para Archer Payal Nag

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha felicitated International Para-Archer Payal Nag at Lok Bhavan, Jammu on April 10.



Hon'ble Lt. Governor congratulated Payal Nag for scripting history by winning gold at the World Archery Para Series 2026 in Bangkok. He also extended his best wishes to the athlete for her future games.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Abhilasha Chaudhary, Archery Coach, and other senior officials of the Shrine Board were also present.

Shrine Board Dedicates State-of-the-Art Model Dental Lab at Katra

Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board inaugurated a modern Dental Lab at Maa Durga Dental Clinic, Katra on May 18, operated by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Charitable Society under the aegis of the Shrine Board.



CEO being briefed by faculty during Inauguration

Established at a cost of approximately ₹43.54 lakh, the facility is equipped with advanced digital dental technologies to provide high-quality dental care and prosthodontic services to pilgrims and local residents at affordable rates for free of cost.

The state-of-the-art laboratory will facilitate the preparation of crowns, bridges, complete and partial dentures, and other dental prostheses using modern digital workflows. Equipped with intraoral scanning

technology, the facility enables accurate, comfortable and faster treatment by replacing conventional dental impression techniques.

The facility is expected to benefit both pilgrims and local residents by providing modern dental solutions with improved precision, efficiency and patient comfort.

Shrine Board Observes 100-Day Nasha Mukta Abhiyan and World Environment Day

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board organized a walkathon under 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan and World Environment Day through a series of awareness, wellness and community outreach programmes across its establishments on June 5.

The initiatives aimed at promoting a drug-free society, healthy lifestyles and environmental consciousness. Activities included yoga sessions, health awareness programmes and CPR demonstrations focused on preventive healthcare and emergency preparedness.

Various students, healthcare professionals, Shrine Board officials and representatives of law enforcement agencies participated in the said rally. The rally spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and reinforced the message of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, encouraging youth to adopt healthy and responsible lifestyles. With the same context, an awareness exhibition and a felicitation ceremony were also organized at SMVDNSH, highlighting the importance of collective efforts in combating drug abuse.

To commemorate World Environment Day, a plantation drive was also conducted at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra, where dignitaries planted Rudraksh saplings, reaffirming the Shrine Board's commitment to



Anti-drug awareness rally being conducted at Kakryal

environment conservation and sustainable development.

The programmes reflected SMVDSB's continued efforts under the guidance of Hon'ble Lt. Governor also Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Shri Manoj Sinha towards fostering a healthier, greener and more socially responsible society.

Among the distinguished dignitaries present on the occasion were Vice Chancellor, SMVDU; CEO, SMVDSB; DIG, Udampur-Reasi Range; Addl. CEO, Jt. CEO, SMVDSB; SSP Reasi; Commandant, CRPF; FA/CAO, SMVDSB; Executive Director, SMVDIME; SP, Katra and others.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister visits Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine for studying the Management System

Shri Mohan Yadav, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, visited the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on May 29 and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum. He visited the Shrine for studying the management system for developing an effective model project for temples in his state.

On his arrival at Katra, the Chief Minister was received by Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.



CEO briefing the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on the live surveillance operations at the ICCS, Katra.

During the visit, the CEO briefed the dignitary about the various initiatives being undertaken by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT, aimed at upgrading and expanding pilgrim infrastructure to facilitate the progressively increasing number of devotees visiting the Holy Shrine.

The Chief Minister appreciated the continuous efforts of the Shrine Board towards providing improved facilities and ensuring a smooth, safe and hassle-free pilgrimage experience for the visiting pilgrims.

SMVDNSH Holds 72nd Governing Body Meeting

The 72nd Governing Body Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), Kakryal, was held on April 30, 2026 under the chairmanship of Dr. K.K. Talwar, Member, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

Emphasis was laid on fostering a patient-centric healthcare ecosystem, integrating advanced digital solutions and improving accessibility and efficiency in service delivery.

To further augment clinical and diagnostic capabilities, the Governing Body approved the procurement of advanced biomedical and diagnostic equipment, particularly for the Departments of Neurology, Cardiology, Nephrology and Laboratory Services. The proposed upgrades are expected to significantly enhance diagnostic accuracy and treatment outcomes.

The meeting also focused on recognizing high-performing healthcare professionals, promoting a collaborative work culture and adopting innovative Information Technology solutions including patient-centric applications and healthcare management systems.

The Governing Body reviewed strategies for increasing patient footfall, strengthening financial sustainability and ensuring optimum utilization of high-value



72nd Governing Body Meeting held at SMVDNSH under the chairmanship of Dr. K.K. Talwar

The Governing Body deliberated on key measures aimed at strengthening the hospital's operational capabilities, enhancing patient care standards and aligning healthcare services with global benchmarks.

medical equipment. The meeting concluded with a reaffirmed commitment to delivering world-class healthcare services while maintaining operational efficiency and excellence in patient care.



Shrine Board Conferred with Jal Yodha Samman

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has been conferred with the prestigious 'Jal Yodha Samman' in recognition of its outstanding efforts in water conservation and sustainable water management on April 2.



Sh. Vinay Khajuria, ACF, SMVDSB receiving Jal Yodha Samman

The award was presented at a national - level programme organized by the Art of Living Foundation in Bengaluru, supported by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The award acknowledges organizations making significant contributions towards the vision of "Atmanirbhar Jal Bharat". On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, the award was received by Sh. Vinay Khajuria, ACF, SMVDSB.

Under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, the Shrine Board has implemented several innovative initiatives including rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, wastewater treatment and reuse, smart water management systems, water ATMs, afforestation, river conservation and sanitation enhancement programmes.

Notably, SMVDSB has achieved a remarkable distinction by securing the First Prize at the National Water Awards for three

consecutive years, conferred by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. The latest recognition further reinforces the Shrine Board's commitment to sustainable water management and environmental stewardship.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra Crosses 50 Lakh Pilgrim Mark

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra achieved a significant milestone during the current calendar year, with the number of pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine crossing the 50 lakh mark on June 22, 2026. As on this date 50.70 lakh devotees had paid obeisance at the Holy Shrine.

The achievement represents a substantial increase over the corresponding period of the previous year, when 39.84 lakh pilgrims had undertaken the pilgrimage. The increase of 10.86 lakh devotees reflects the enduring faith and devotion of pilgrims from across the country and abroad towards Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and the stupendous management initiatives of the Board.

The sustained increase in the number of pilgrims also reflects the confidence reposed by devotees in the arrangements made by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders associated with the management of the Yatra.



Pilgrims at the Bhawan area



Under the Chairmanship of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT, the Shrine Board continues to strengthen pilgrim facilities through sustained improvements in infrastructure, accommodation, sanitation, healthcare services, crowd management, battery car operations, ropeway services and digital initiatives.

These efforts have significantly enhanced the overall pilgrimage experience and contributed to the growing confidence of devotees in the Yatra management.

The crossing of the 50-lakh milestone at this stage of the year underscores the increasing popularity of the pilgrimage and augurs well for the continued growth of the Yatra in the months ahead.

Shrine Board Extends Support to Self-Help Groups, Strengthening Grassroots Livelihoods

In a major initiative to promote inclusive growth and community empowerment, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has onboarded more than 13 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for the supply of essential religious materials used in Prasad, including raksha sutra and mouli.

The initiative, undertaken in line with the decisions of the 76th Board Meeting chaired by Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT and Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Shri Manoj Sinha, aims to prioritize procurement from Self-Help Groups, women and local entrepreneurs while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

The engaged Self-Help Groups collectively involve around 450–500 women, providing them with a stable source of income and contributing to the socio-economic development of their families and communities. During the last financial year, the Shrine Board facilitated income opportunities worth approximately ₹3.50 crore for these groups.

Building on this success, the Shrine Board has resolved to onboard additional Self-Help Groups for sourcing offerings locally, with the objective of extending livelihood opportunities to nearly 1,500 women in the region. The initiative reflects the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's continued commitment to women empowerment, local entrepreneurship and community-driven economic development in the region.



Members of SHGs preparing and packaging Raksha Sutas



Shrine Board Celebrates International Yoga Day with Enthusiasm

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board celebrated the 12th International Day of Yoga with great enthusiasm at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex, Katra in collaboration with the Bharatiya Yog Sansthan on June 21.

Complex by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in 2016, reaffirming its dedication to promoting health, wellness and balanced living.

Similar yoga sessions were also organized at Bhawan and Adhkuwari, witnessing enthusiastic participation from Shrine Board employees and personnel of various security agencies.



Participants practicing yoga in unison during International Yoga Day

The event witnessed active participation from Shrine Board officers and employees along with their families, sportspersons, students, local residents and other stakeholders. Observed globally under the theme “Yoga for Healthy Ageing”, the programme commenced with ceremonial lighting of the traditional lamp by Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB along with senior officers and other dignitaries. Participants subsequently performed the Common Yoga Protocol and took part in various yoga asanas, pranayama and meditation sessions conducted by experienced instructors from the Bharatiya Yog Sansthan.

The Shrine Board has been commemorating the International Day of Yoga annually since the inauguration of the Sports

Shrine Board Organizes “Durga Stuti Path” at Katra

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board organized a spiritually uplifting “Durga Stuti Path” at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra on May 09, amidst an atmosphere of devotion



Ceremonial lamp-lighting before the Durga Stuti



and reverence. The sacred recital was performed by renowned devotional singer Shri Ashok Bhardwaj, whose soulful rendition of devotional hymns and bhajans filled the entire venue with divine fervour and spiritual bliss.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of devotees, locals, officers and officials of the Shrine Board, who joined the sacred event and sought the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. The devotional recitation highlighted the glory, power and compassion of Maa Durga and created a spiritually charged ambience throughout the programme.

Hostel Mess Facility for Athletes Inaugurated at Shrine Board Sports Complex

Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board inaugurated a modern hostel mess facility on April 4 for athletes at the Aashirwad Complex of the Shrine Board.

The newly established facility will cater to over 100 resident athletes from various sports disciplines, providing hygienic, nutritious and balanced meals.

The menu has been designed to meet the dietary requirements of sportspersons and support their performance and overall well-being.

On the occasion, CEO, SMVD Shrine Board said that the initiative reflects the Shrine Board's commitment to promoting sports excellence and ensuring the holistic development of athletes. He exhorted that the facility has been established under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT and Chairman, SMVD Shrine Board, Shri Manoj Sinha, who has consistently encouraged the development of world-class sports infrastructure and nurturing of young talent.

The addition of the mess facility further strengthens the comprehensive support system being developed by the Shrine Board for sports promotion and welfare of athletes of the region.

The athletes and coaches expressed gratitude to the Shrine Board for providing such a dedicated and well-equipped facility, which will significantly contribute to their training and performance.

This addition reinforces the Shrine Board's commitment to sports development in the region.



CEO along with Sports Personnel Inaugurating Mess Facility

SMVD Sports Complex Women's Basketball Team Clinches Women Ballers League Title

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex Women's Basketball Team emerged champions at the Women Ballers League, organised under the aegis of the J&K Sports Council at Gindun Stadium, Srinagar from June 19–21, 2026.

an individual trophy for her outstanding performance.

The players were felicitated by Shri Alok Kumar Maurya, Addl. Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, who congratulated the team and reiterated the Shrine Board's commitment towards promoting sports and nurturing young talent under the Chairmanship of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K-UT.

Among those present on the occasion



Women's Basketball Team felicitated by Additional CEO & Director (Sports), SMVDSB.

Representing the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, the Sports Complex fielded two men's teams and one women's team in the tournament. While both men's teams delivered commendable performances and advanced to the quarterfinal stage but the women's team secured the championship title through an impressive display of skill, determination and teamwork.

For their title-winning performance, the team was awarded a cash prize of ₹8,000, along with Championship Trophy and medals. Adding to the achievement, Anu Priya was adjudged Player of the Tournament and received a cash award of ₹2,500 along with

were Shri Dhruv Gupta, Director Sports, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex, the Basketball Coach and other officials.

SMVDIME Hosts Grand Finale of Nursing Quiz to Mark World Health Day

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) organized the Grand Finale of a Nursing Quiz Competition on April 8 for students from across the Jammu Division at Sanjeevani Auditorium to commemorate World Health Day.



Jointly organized by SMVDIME and Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, in collaboration with the Nursing Council J&K and the Academy of Hospital Administration (AHA), Jammu Chapter, the event aimed to promote academic excellence, healthcare awareness and professional competency among nursing students.

Reasi (GMC Udhampur) and DRD College of Nursing, ASCOMS, Sidhra, received the consolation prize.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest commended the organizers for conducting this innovative and impactful initiative, emphasizing that such programmes play a vital role in enhancing the professional



Participants, organizers and jury members pose for a group photograph

Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Four teams; shortlisted through zonal-level competitions, competed in the final round, showcasing their knowledge of nursing practices, patient care, general medicine and contemporary health issues.

The Government College of Nursing, Gangyal (GMC Jammu) secured the first, College of Nursing, Kathua, secured the second and third positions, respectively. While the Government College of Nursing,

competence of nursing students, thereby contributing to improved patient care and better public health outcomes.

The event was attended by faculty members and healthcare professionals; Principals of various GMCs; Registrar, Nursing Council J&K; Facility Director, SMVDNSH; President, AHA Jammu Chapter and Dean Academics, SMVDIME, among other distinguished dignitaries. Students from various government and private nursing institutions across the Jammu Division also participated in the event.

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