64th Meeting of SMVDSB
CCTV Surveillance Project to cover entire track

Governor, Sh. Satya Pal Malik, chairing 64th Meeting of SMVDSB at Raj Bhavan, Jammu on 15th March 2019

The 64th meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was held at the Raj Bhavan, Jammu under the chairmanship of Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman of the Shrine Board, on 15th March 2019.

The meeting was attended by H.H.Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Sh. K.B. Kachru, Sh. K.K. Sharma, Mr. Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma and Sh. Vijay Dhar, all Board Members; Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to the Governor; Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional Chief Executive Officer; Sh. M. M. Gupta, Chief Engineer of the Board and Dr. (Brig.) M. M. Harjai, CAO, SMVDNSH.

Several important decisions were taken in the meeting for further extending better facilities to the yatrīs on the yatra route. These include: installation of CCTV Surveillance System on the entire track from Darshani Deodi to Bhawan which besides helping in monitoring the movement of pilgrims and strengthening overall security measures, will also be of immense support in case of any emergent situations to provide
real time assistance to Shrine Board and local administration; installation of stand-alone Packaged Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for the Toilet Blocks on the yatra route at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.65 crore in phased manner and setting up a day care Centre of SMVDNSH by hiring accommodation in order to provide facilities like Dialysis, ECHO, TMT, OPD etc. in Jammu city which will work as spoke to the main Katra hospital.

The Board reviewed the to-date status of installation of hi-tech Multipurpose Audio System on Tarakote Marg from Katra to Adhkuwari being implemented for facilitating on-foot pilgrims who use the scenic Tarakote Marg for their journey to the Holy Shrine. The Board also took stock of progress on installation of dedicated Fire Hydrants from Bhawan to Adhkuwari via Himkoti and its extension along the Tarakote Marg which has been taken up on priority basis to mitigate fire incidents during summer season. The project estimated to cost Rs. 3.50 crore envisages lifting of treated waste water from Bhawan STP to reservoirs of 50,000 gallons capacity each at Hut Station, Bhawan, Saket, Himkoti and Adhkuwari.

The progress on construction of hostels and other infrastructure of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Nursing College Complex, Kakryal coming up in Phase-I at an estimated cost of Rs. 53 crore, was also reviewed.

The Governor directed the CEO to ensure that all the projects be completed as per the envisaged timelines for largely facilitating the pilgrims.

**Governor lays foundation of new Durga Bhawan to provide free accommodation to 4000 pilgrims**

To add additional facilities for meeting the accommodation needs of the pilgrims who visit the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, electronically laid foundation stone and launched the work for reconstruction of 5-storey Durga Bhawan in the Bhawan area, on the sidelines of the 64th meeting of the Shrine Board held under his chairmanship at the Raj Bhavan, Jammu on 15th March 2019.

A view of Bhawan

This earthquake resilient building, with a covered area of 60,000 sft, is estimated to cost Rs. 50 crore and will provide free accommodation to around 4000 pilgrims. It will have adequate ready to eat snacks and beverages besides having provision of 4 elevators for vertical circulation.

The reconstruction of Durga Bhawan is part of the approved Master Plan of Bhawan area which has been got prepared by the Shrine Board for Bhawan and the Extended Shrine Area from the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. The construction of Durga Bhawan is one of the four works of Master Plan Phase-I for 2021. It is pertinent to mention that the Master Plan seeks to achieve target of ensuring maximum free of cost accommodation for yatris by 2031.

**Governor reconstitutes Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board**

Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on 5th February 2019 reconstituted the Board for a period of three years, with immediate effect.

In his capacity as Chairman, SMVDSB, Governor, in exercise of powers conferred upon him under Section 5(1)(b), Section 7 and Section 10 of the Jammu and Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act, 1988, has nominated Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.), Mr. Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli, Major General (Retd.) Shiv Kumar Sharma, H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Sh. Vijay Dhar, Sh. K. B. Kachru and Sh. K. K. Sharma as Members.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.) is the former Director General of Police J&K; Mr. Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli is the former Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court and former Chairman of Central
Administrative Tribunal; Major General Shiv Kumar Sharma is a retired Army officer, decorated with AVSM; H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar is a spiritual leader and founder of the Art of Living Foundation; Sh. 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; Sh. K. B. Kachru is the Chairman of Emeritus, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group and former Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Indian Tourism Development Corporation and Sh. K. K. Sharma is the Chairman cum Managing Director of AIMIL Pharmaceuticals (I) Ltd.

Organ transplantation facility to commence soon at SSH Kakryal

The 55th Governing Body meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), Kakryal held at Jammu on 12th March took several decisions to further enhance the operational capacities of the hospital. These include augmenting ICU facilities in the SMVDNSH by increasing the number of critical care beds and further augmenting the dialysis facilities for facilitating the patients requiring dialysis procedures. It is pertinent to mention that the Hospital currently has a 24-bedded ICU, besides a separate PICU and NICU. However, in view of the current ICU functioning at full capacity, the GB took a conscious decision to add another 14 beds to strengthen the ICU.

Region, NH, who all are the Members of the Governing Body. Among those who also participated in the deliberations included Dr. (Brig) Man Mohan Harjai, Chief Administrative Officer, SMVDNSH; Sh. A. Nagarajan, Senior Vice President Finance, NH; Sh. K. S. Dattatreya, Facility Director and Dr. Saumya Ahuja, Medical Superintendent of the hospital.

The much needed facility of Organ Transplant (Renal) Programme at the hospital, the GB emphasised, needs to commence as soon as the licence for the purpose is secured from J&K Government. The hospital recently performed surgery of seven underprivileged children suffering from various heart ailments under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, while more such surgeries have been planned in the coming months.

Welfare measures for employees

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at its 64th Meeting held under the chairmanship of Governor Satya Pal Malik, Chairman of the Shrine Board, at Raj Bhavan, Jammu on 15th March, 2019, took several important decisions for the welfare and career progression of Board employees. These include reduction in qualifying period for promotion across all the categories of employees falling in Group A, B & C and to bring uniformity in promotion period. As per the amendment, the qualifying period for promotion of Group A categories will now be 5 years, for Group B 6 years, while in case of category C employees it will be 8 years. Earlier, the qualifying period for promotion in some cadres was even up to 16 years.

The Board also approved reimbursement of fee in respect of children of the Shrine Board employees studying in Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Kakryal. The quantum of fee to be reimbursed will comprise tuition fee and hostel charges for all graduate and post graduate courses pursued by such students.

The Board also decided to enhance ex-gratia relief in favour of all employees of the Shrine Board. In case of death of an employee in active service of Board (Graded/Term/Daily wage/MRWs/MRSKCs), ex-gratia relief has been increased from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/- and in case of death of a family member of an employee falling in Group-C category, the ex-gratia relief has been enhanced from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-.
Shrine Board, NDRF jointly review disaster management preparedness

Various aspects of Disaster Management preparedness of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board were reviewed at a meeting held under the chairmanship of Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board at Katra on 28th March.

Sh. Ravi Kumar, Commandant, 7th Bn. NDRF (Bhatinda); Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO of the Shrine Board; Sh. Amit Vermani, Sh. Deepak Dubey and Dr. Jagdish Mehra, Dy. CEOs; Sh. Naresh Singh, Additional SP, Katra; officers and men of the NDRF, officers of the SDRF Reasi, Unit Heads of the Shrine Board and other stakeholders participated in the meeting.

The meeting reviewed various components of Disaster Management Plan of the Shrine and measures being taken to further strengthen it continuously. It also held debriefing session vis-a-vis the Mock Exercise that was earlier conducted by the NDRF team on 27th March on the Yatra track near the Bhawan area to evaluate level of preparedness to most effectively and promptly respond to any emergency situation. Police, CRPF, Fire & Emergency Services, Members of the Disaster Management Task Force of the Shrine Board, Medical Units, Unit Heads and employees of the Board took part in it.

To further augment the Disaster Management preparedness, it was decided that the 7th Battalion of NDRF will conduct a comprehensive audit of the Disaster Management Stores set up by the Shrine Board at various locations on the track and in the Bhawan area so that, wherever required, these are further strengthened by adding latest gadgets and equipments. An annual ‘Calendar of Training’ will be formulated whereunder the NDRF will impart advance training to the Shrine Board staff, particularly Security and Enforcement Sahayaks most of whom are ex-Servicemen. Besides, an Emergency Operation Centre will be set up by the Shrine Board as part of its disaster management preparedness.

SMVDSB launches hi-tech pre-paid system for hiring Ponies, Pithoos, Palkis

A hi-tech computerised pre-paid system, integrated with CCTV Cameras and Video Conferencing facilities, for hiring Ponies, Pithoos and Palkis, was launched from Katra on 26th February for the facilitation of pilgrims to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. This facility has been made available to the pilgrims round the clock.

This system was formally inaugurated by Sh. B. S. Tuti, DIG, Udhampur-Reasi in the presence of Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Smt. Indu Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi and Smt. Nisha Nathyal, SSP, Reasi, at a function at the SGC, Katra.

The system has integrated 9 Pre-paid Counters from Katra to Bhairon, located at Katra, Banganga, Charan-Paduka, Adhkuwari-I, Adhkuwari-II, Sanjichhat, Parvati Bhawan at Bhawan, Pony Stand Bhawan and Bhairon, from where yatris can avail Pony, Pithoo, Palki services at pre-determined rates. The Counters will also serve as Grievance Registration Centres for yatris, which will be conveyed to Shrine Board Administration at Katra in escalation format. Each yatri will also be provided helmet, elbow and knee pads to provide preventive cover against any accidental injury. The Counters will also provide video conferencing facilities to Shrine Board Office in order to monitor the activities and interact with employees at different yatra stations.

Launching of pre-paid system for hiring ponies, pithoos and palkis
Sh. Rohit Singh Sambyal, Director, G Max IT Services gave details of the Pre-paid system. Among others present on the occasion were Dr. Arvind Karwani and Sh. Amit Vermani, Dy. CEOs of the Shrine Board; Sh. Manu Hansa, Assistant Chief Executive Officer and Sh. Vivek Shekhar, SDPO, Katra.

Under this system, a stand-alone network has been set up by G-Max Pvt. Services Ltd., a Jammu based company which got this contract from SMVDSB under Build, Own, Operate and Transfer framework for 5 years.

The CEO of the Shrine Board said that the project is an outcome of National Green Tribunal and Supreme Court orders on the issue of regulating mules, capping its count, management of mule dung and overcharging etc.

All the 9 Pre-paid counters on the track from Banganga to the Bhawan also became functional from 26th February, and were inaugurated by Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional Chief Executive Officer and Sh. Naresh Sharma, SDM Bhawan.

**Governing Council for Gurukul meets**

The 25th meeting of the Governing Council for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, was held at the SGC, Katra on 20th February. A number of important decisions for developing this institution as a centre of excellence, were taken in this meeting.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, chaired the meeting, which was attended by Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; Prof. Yugal Kishore Mishra; Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri; Dr. Arvind Karwani, Dy. CEO, SMVDSB and Administrator of Gurukul; Sh. Gopal Dass Sharma, Head Pujari, Bhawan; and Dr. Devendra Rijal, Vice Principal of the Gurukul.

The Governing Council noted the outstanding achievements of the students of the Gurukul in academics and co-curricular activities at the various state and national level competitions. The GC appreciated 5 students of Gurukul - Gotam Sharma, Ankit Sharma, Udhit Narayan Jasyal, Shubam Sharma and Anish Sharma who won medals in their respective events in the Akhil Bhartiya Shastriya Sparda held in January at the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Ekalavya Campus, Agartala, Tripura. The GC also congratulated Madhav Sharma, a student of the Gurukul who stood 1st in the Class 8th Annual Examination conducted by the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya in 2017-18. It may be recalled that the students of the Gurukul have been consistently winning Gold Medals in Class 8th Annual Examination every year since 2012.

The Governing Council decided to take up the matter with the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya for issuance of Shastri Degree in bilingual language i.e. Sanskrit and English. It was also decided that possibilities shall be explored for organising short-term capsule courses in Yoga and Karam Kand etc., for the Shastri Part-III students of the Gurukul to enhance their employability.

**Admission process for 4th Batch of SMVDCoN to start from 1st April**

The Governing Body of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal at its 31st meeting held at SGC, Katra on 9th March reviewed the arrangements being put in place for the selection of students for the Fourth Batch of the College, process for which would commence from 1st April 2019.

Online portal for filling up application forms for admission for 4th Batch of the 4 year B.Sc. Nursing Course at the SMVDCoN will commence from 1st April and the last date for submission of online application forms will be 31st May 2019. The Entrance Examination will be conducted on 9th June at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and classes for 4th Batch (2019-20) will start from mid July 2019.
The meeting was chaired by Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd.) Member of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of the College and also attended by Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr. V. Verma, Dean, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University; Dr. (Brig) Man Mohan Harjai, Administrator of the SMVDCoN and Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal of the College of Nursing.

Abhishek of Shrine Board excels in Marathon

Sh. Abhishek Sharma, working as Assistant Manager in the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, excelled in AU Bank Jaipur Marathon held on 3rd February 2019. He participated in the Half Marathon (21.1 km) and finished 3rd in the 35-45 years age men category. Abhishek crossed the finish line in 01:43:46 and secured third place. He has also qualified in Bhatinda HALF marathon held on 24th March.

Development of civic amenities in Katra

A joint meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Municipal Committee, Katra, was held at SGC, Katra on 14th February.

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Sh. Vimal Indu, President, Municipal Committee, Katra; Dr. Jagdish Mehra, the then Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Katra and Sh. Deepak Dubey, Dy. CEO of the Shrine Board participated in the meeting. Various Members of the Municipal Committee, Katra who also participated in the deliberations included Sh. Ambrish Magotra, Sh. Ravinder Singh Nag, Sh. Veekey Roy, Sh. Tara Chand, Ms. Reena Baru, Ms. Bindu Sharma and Ms. Renu Bala.

The meeting deliberated on various short, medium and long term measures required in Katra town for the augmentation, creation and upgradation of civic amenities.

The President and Members of the Municipal Committee, Katra sought more support of the Shrine Board in further augmenting civic amenities for the benefit of the pilgrims and the local population.

The CEO said that the Shrine Board has continuously been taking various initiatives for upgradation of civic amenities at Katra, adding that it has completed various development works in Katra town during last year at a cost of Rs. 338 lakh and is contributing Rs. 358 lakh for residential quarters for doctors and paramedical staff of CHC Katra. The Board has also taken up three more works in Katra town this year at an estimated cost of Rs. 206.51 lakh. It has also approved reconstruction of old Block of Government Girls High School, Katra; construction of Toilet Block in Government Higher Secondary School, Katra; repair and renovation of lane and drain and laying of interlocking tiles in Ward No. 4 and also construction of 4-lane approach road to ISBT Katra. These works would be completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 863 lakh.

SMVDCoN wins overall championship of Nursing Fest Tarang 2019

The 2-day Inter-College Nursing Fest-Tarang-2019, was organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal on 29-30 March in which 300 students from various Nursing Colleges of the State participated. The events organised during the Fest included debate, street play, rangoli and collage making, face painting, working model
competition, sports and cultural activities.

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, inaugurated the event at Matrika Auditorium of SMVDU. He remarked that nursing is a noble profession and one of the best career options with tremendous scope in the job market.

Ms. Shalini Bernard, Chief Nursing Officer, Max Hospital, Dehradun, who was the Guest of Honour at the inaugural function, appreciated the quality of nursing education being imparted by SMVDCoN.

Dr. (Brig) M. M. Harjai, Administrator, SMVDCoN, presented welcome address, while Dr. Shailla Cannic, Principal of the College gave vote of thanks. The event concluded with valedictory function held at SGC Katra where Ms. Indu Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, was the Chief Guest. She gave away prizes to the winners of various competitions of Tarang 2019.

Among those present on the occasion were faculty, staff and students of the SMVDCoN and other participating colleges.

Mega events held at Shrine Board’s Sports Complex

Several mega events were held at the Shrine Board’s Sports Complex during January-March 2019, including 73rd edition of National Football (North Zone Qualifiers) from February 11 to 16, in which 8 teams participated.

Advisor to Governor, Sh. K. Vijay Kumar inaugurated the championship, which was organised by J&K Football Association under the aegis of the All India Football Federation and supported by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, J&K State Sports Council and J&K Bank Ltd.

2nd Division National Football League which commenced from 27th March and will conclude on 6th April at the Sports Complex. 5 premier teams - Lone Star Kashmir Football Club, Bengaluru Football Club, Goa Football Club, Hindustan Football Club, Delhi and Ahmedabad Ara Football Club are participating.

4th Federation Cup of Atiya Patiya in which teams from Maharashtra, Goa, MP, Karnataka, Puducherry, Chattisgarh, Kerala and J&K participated was also held at the Sports Complex on 22-23 February.
A 14-day winter coaching camp was also organised in January at the Sports Complex in the disciplines of Athletics, Archery, Basketball, Shooting, Volleyball and Football for the students in the age category of 14 to 19 years (boys and girls) during 4-17 January.

Three Archers viz Rakesh Kumar, Nisha Devi and Jyoti Baliyan and Archery Coach Kuldeep Vaidwan of Shrine Board’s Sports Complex were selected for the National Coaching Camp at SAI Rohtak, Haryana in preparations for 5th Fazza World Ranking Tournament to be held in Dubai during 10-16 April 2019.

**Shrine Board CEO hoists tricolour on Republic Day**

The 70th Republic Day was celebrated with traditional fervour and patriotism at Katra. Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, hoisted the tricolour and took salute at an impressive march-past by the 29 contingents drawn from CRPF, NCC, students of various educational institutions and trainees from the Shrine Board’s Sports Complex Coaching Centre.

The students of various educational institutions presented a captivating cultural programme on this occasion and the adjudged winners of march-past and cultural programme were given prizes.

Among those present on the occasion were Sh. Vimal Indu, President, Municipal Committee, Katra; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; Sh. Amit Vermani and Sh. Deepak Dubey, Dy. CEOs; Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer of the Shrine Board; Sh. Ashok Kumar, SDM, Katra; Sh. Jagdish Mehra, the then CEO Katra Development Authority; Sh. Naresh Singh, Additional SP, Katra; Sh. Jitendra Kumar Gupta, Commandant, CRPF 6th Bn; Sh. Manu Hansa, Asstt. CEO and Sh. Ashok Kumar, Director Sports, SMVDSB. Others who participated in the function included Members of Municipal Committee, Katra, senior civil and Police officers, prominent citizens, heads of various educational institutions, media persons, officers and staff of the Shrine Board, a large number of people of the area, teachers, school children and pilgrims.

As part of the celebrations, Sh. Simrandeep Singh, CEO, SMVDSB, also hoisted the tricolour at a function held at the Central Office of the Shrine Board.

**SMVDSB employee felicitated for outstanding devotion to duty**

Sh. Simrandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, has issued Letter of Commendation to Sh. Vipan Kumar Sharma, a Muster Roll Worker of the Shrine Board, presently engaged at Battery Car Ticketing Counter at Adhkuwari, for displaying outstanding devotion to duty and acting in righteous manner.

Sh. Ajit Kumar, a pilgrim from Patna, Bihar visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji along with his family on 11th February 2019 and after purchasing Battery Car Tickets at Adhkuwari Ticket Counter, he forgot to take back the balance amount from Sh. Vipan Kumar Sharma, who was on the Ticket Counter at that point of time. Sh. Vipan Kumar Sharma took care of excess cash and returned the same to the pilgrim when he returned from Bhawan in the evening. The pilgrim appreciated the honesty and integrity of the Shrine Board employee and the CEO of the Shrine Board rewarded him with a Certificate of Commendation. In the past also such achievements of the employees have been duly recognised by the Board and also reflected in the service record.