



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Trikuta

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 4 - Issue 1

January - March 2021

Patron

Sh. Manoj Sinha
Chairman, SMVDSB

Editor-in-Chief

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, IAS
CEO, SMVDSB

Executive Editor

Dr. Sunil Sharma, KAS
Dy. CEO, SMVDSB

editor@maavaishnodevi.net

Lt Governor reviews Master Plan of Bhawan and Extended Shrine Area of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi: MoU signed between Shrine Board-CPWD 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, Lieutenant Governor, 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-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 Lieutenant 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 along with 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.



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.

It was informed that the Durga Bhawan would have adequate facilities for the visiting pilgrims such as lockers, toilets, blankets, ready to eat snacks and beverages, besides provision of elevators. The top terrace of the building will be at the level of existing track of Bhawan which will be covered with an aesthetically designed roof for clear valley view and as an additional resting place for the convenience of pilgrims.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli and Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Board Members; Sh. Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Prof. Mandeep Singh from the

School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi; and Sh. Vishavjeet Singh, Dy. CEO, SMVDSB were present during the review meeting.

Lt Governor inaugurates Shrine Board's hi-tech Call Centre for devotees

Taking a major leap towards creating a robust response mechanism to address the queries and grievances regarding Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji pilgrimage, Lt 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.



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

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



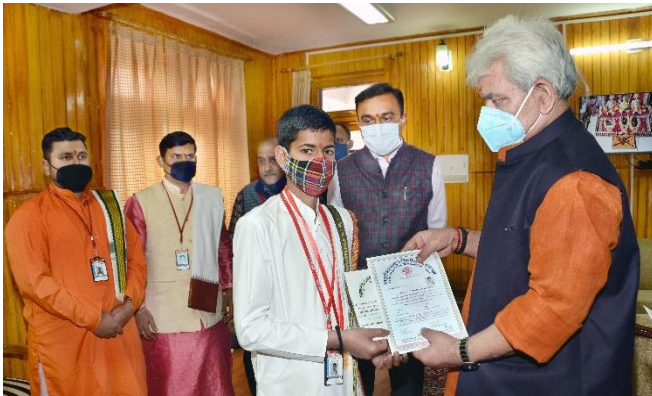
their yatra experience more pleasant and memorable.

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.

This facility will remain operational round the clock and will have 6 Work Centres at a time initially, which will be later extended up to 30, with Primary Rate Interface line of BSNL having Telephone No. 01991-234804.

LG felicitates students of SMVD Gurukul for securing 1st positions in Sampurnanand Sanskrit University

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.



Lt Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha felicitating Gurukul students.

The Lt Governor congratulated the students for their outstanding achievement and bringing laurels to the SMVD Gurukul. He further asked the Shrine Board to continue

providing excellent teaching and other facilities to the Gurukul so that the hard work of students could result in greater performances in academics and co-curricular activities. Pertinently, Anmol Sharma was awarded Vakratund Shukul Swaran Padak, while Ankit Sharma was awarded Shrimati Shashikant Sharma Swaran Padak.

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 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.

GB takes holistic review of functioning of SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

The 64th meeting of Governing Body of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), Kakryal, was held at Jammu on 9 January in which various aspects of functioning of this tertiary care hospital came up for holistic review. While expressing satisfaction over functioning of the hospital, particularly during the challenging situation due to pandemic, the Governing Body took several decisions for further enhancing its operational capacities and standards of patient care in tune with the emerging requirements. Analysing the feedback and suggestions of the patients and their attendants during the past months, the Governing Body stressed that prompt action should be taken on each and every feedback as this would go a long way in continuously improving the delivery systems in the hospital.



Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board, chairing Governing Body meeting of SMVDNSH.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of the SMVDNSH, chaired the meeting and Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd), Member Shrine Board; Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Sh. Viren Shetty, Group Chief Operating Officer, NH; and Cdr. Navneet Bali, Director, Northern Region, NH; who all are Members of the Governing Body, participated in the deliberations. Among those who also took part in the discussions included Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer, SMVDSB; Dr. Gopal K. Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer, SMVDNSH; and Sh. M. Muthu Mathavan, Facility Director of the hospital.

Natural Cave opened for darshans

The natural Cave of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji has been opened for darshans for the devotees since Makar Sankranti, as per practice in vogue, and since then a large number of pilgrims have performed darshans via the natural Cave, by strictly following the social distancing norms and other precautionary measures with regard to COVID-19.

It is pertinent to mention that every year the natural Cave is opened for pilgrims on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and performing other rituals.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of Shrine Board said that usually pilgrims are allowed from the natural Cave when the daily yatra is below 10,000 mark. Meanwhile, the yatra to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji is progressing

smoothly and since 1st January to 31 March this year a total of nearly 13.23 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum.



Pilgrims performing darshans via natural Cave.

29th meeting of Governing Council for Gurukul held

The 29th meeting of the Governing Council for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra, was held at Jammu on 28 January and took a number of important decisions for the future growth of this institution as a centre of excellence.

The Governing Council, while reviewing the various activities undertaken by the Gurukul during the pandemic, was informed that the syllabus was divided into two parts comprising practical and theory components. Besides organising online classes, several webinars and special online vocational and practical sessions for Yagya, Hawan, Karam Kand, Vedic Mantras, Jyotish, Vastu Shastra and other religious rituals were organised in which all the students and faculty participated through virtual mode. The GC emphasised the high importance of optimally focussing on imparting such a practical and vocational training to the Gurukul students so that they are equipped with the required skills to become self-reliant.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council for the Gurukul, chaired the meeting, which was attended by Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of Shrine Board; Sh. Vivek



Verma, Additional CEO; Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri; Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer; Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEO of the Shrine Board and Administrator of Gurukul; Sh. Gopal Dass Sharma, Head Pujari, Bhawan; and Dr. Dhananjay Mishra, Principal of the Gurukul.



Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board chairing Governing Council meeting of Gurukul.

The GC was informed that all the students of Shastri Part-III have passed their annual examination, conducted by Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi with which the Gurukul is affiliated, by securing 1st Divisions during the session 2019-20.

Staff grievance redressal camp held at Adhkuwari

As part of programme to hold interaction with the staff working on track from Katra to Bhawan and at various other locations to address their difficulties, Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shrine Board, organised a grievance redressal camp at Adhkuwari on 9 February.

The CEO enumerated the 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. While interacting with the staff in regard to their personnel related matters and welfare initiatives for Safai Karamcharis and other staff, 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 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 and referred to the Shrine Board having received 'Best Swachh Iconic Place' award in 2019 and the 1st prize for 'Water Conservation and Management' last year, besides various other awards from time to time.

The CEO 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.

Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEO, SMVDSB, spoke about the aims and objectives of organising such interactions and measures which have already been taken by the Shrine Board and those underway for career progression and welfare of the employees.

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.

Governing Body takes appraisal of SMVD College of Nursing

The 40th meeting of the Governing Body of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Kakryal, was held at Jammu on 27 March which undertook appraisal of the functioning of the College and discussed way forward for developing this institution as a centre of excellence for providing top quality nursing education to the students in consonance with the emerging requirements of this vital component of healthcare system.

The meeting while approving the calendar of events of the College for the year 2021-22, appreciated various activities undertaken by the institution on varied subjects by associating experts in the relevant fields during the past months for the benefit of the students and faculty. In furtherance of these objectives, the GB decided to organise a 2-day Continuing Nursing Education Programme by SMVDCoN on the theme related to the COVID-19 management in May this year. The College had organised a virtual CNE comprising 2 credit hours in November last also in which 58 participants from J&K, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and also abroad participated through virtual mode.



Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd.), Member SMVDSB chairing Governing Body meeting of College of Nursing.

The meeting emphasised the need for taking all required measures well in time by the Placement Cell of the Nursing College so that all the students passing out from the

institution this year find excellent placements in the leading health institutions like the first passing out batch of SMVDCoN last year.

The Governing Body meeting chaired by Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma (Retd), Member Shrine Board; was attended by Mr. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr. V. Verma, Dean, SMVDU; Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEO of Shrine Board and Administrator of SMVDCoN; and Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal SMVDCoN.

Other matters that came up for discussion in the meeting, interalia, included the broad contours for starting of M. Sc. Nursing Programme in the College in the three identified specialities of Psychiatry Nursing, Medical Surgical Nursing and Child Health Nursing, which have wider scope for employment in health care; and organising of Lamp Lighting Ceremony and Annual Day of the Nursing College.

Shrine Board organises sports event on International Women's Day

As part of the celebration of International Women's Day, a day-long sports event for women was organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at its Sports Complex, Katra on 8 March.



Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board giving prizes to winners of sports event on International Women's Day.

Nearly 250 participants comprising female staff of the Shrine Board and students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Kakryal took part in various sports events like tug of war, yoga asanas, 2 km walk, 50 mtr, 100 mtr and 200 mtr races, shot-put and badminton competitions during the event.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council of



Shrine Board's Sports Complex, who was the chief guest on the occasion, gave away prizes to the winners of various sports competitions at the valedictory function, while the event was inaugurated by Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bhan threw light on the importance of celebration of the International Women's Day and highlighted the role of women in nation building. Referring to the sports event, he lauded the performance of the participants. He was accompanied by Mrs. Kiran Bhan during the function.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO Shrine Board congratulated the participants of the sports event organised by the Shrine Board on the International Women's Day. He said that women have made an indelible mark in various spheres of human endeavour and contributed significantly in the nation's progress and prosperity by their tremendous achievements. Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEO, SMVDSB gave details of the sports activities organised at the Sports Complex.

R-Day celebrations at Katra

The 72nd Republic Day was celebrated with traditional fervour and patriotism at Katra. The main function at Katra was held at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, where Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, hoisted the tricolour and took salute from the contingents drawn from J&K Police, CRPF, NCC and school children.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO Shrine Board greeted the people on this joyous occasion. He recalled the sacrifices made by the great national leaders for attaining freedom for the country from foreign rule.

Sh. Ramesh Kumar felicitated the contingents and the cultural troupes who participated in the Republic Day function besides the sports persons of the Shrine Board's Sports Complex for excelling in

various sports and games. He also felicitated the officers and officials of various departments and organisations and the media persons for doing a commendable job during the pandemic.



CEO Shrine Board taking salute after hoisting the tricolour on 72nd Republic Day function at Katra.

Among those present on the occasion were Sh. Vimal Indu, President, Municipal Committee, Katra; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO, SMVDSB; Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer; Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dr. Jagdish Mehra, Sh. Deepak Dubey and Sh. Vishavjeet Singh, Dy. CEOs; Sh. Amit Bhasin, SP, Katra; Sh. Jitendra Kumar Gupta, Commandant, CRPF 6th Bn. and Sh. Ashok Kumar, SDM, Katra.

As part of the Republic Day celebrations, Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO, SMVDSB, also hoisted the tricolour at the Central Office of the Shrine Board at Katra. At Bhawan, the flag was hoisted by Sh. Naresh Kumar, SDM Bhawan.

Governing Council reviews functioning of Sports Complex

The 8th meeting of the Governing Council of Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra, was held at Jammu on 28 January and took a number of important decisions for nurturing sporting talent and arranging several sports events in the coming months to promote sports and games in the area.



Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board felicitating Sh. Kuldeep Handoo during GC meeting of Sports Complex.



The GC lauded the achievements of the sports persons trained and groomed at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex in various national and international level competitions. In this context, the GC congratulated Ms. Jyoti Baliyan, para archer of the Sports Complex, who has been awarded Rani Laxmibai award by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Sh. Danish Sharma of the Shrine Board has also excelled in judo for which he was awarded by the J&K Government with Sher-i-Kashmir sports award.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Council of Sports Complex, chaired the meeting, which was attended by Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Sh. Vivek Verma, Additional CEO; Sh. Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer; Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dy. CEO, SMVDSB; and a number of prominent sports persons who are members of the Governing Council viz. Sh. Sanjeeva Singh, former International Archer (Arjuna/ Dronacharya Awardee); Ms. Ashwani Nachappa, former International Athlete (Arjuna Awardee); Ms. Krupali Singh, National Gymnastics Coach (Arjuna Awardee); and Sh. Kuldeep Handoo, eminent wushu player and National Coach (Dronacharya Awardee). Ms. Nachappa participated in the discussions through virtual mode.

The GC desired for organising talent hunt by holding trials in the educational institutions of the area with a view to catch them at earlier stages so that thereafter the selected boys and girls could be provided specialised coaching to groom them for participation in various national and international competitions. On this occasion, Sh. Kuldeep Handoo was felicitated by the Governing Council for having been awarded with Dronacharya Award recently, by presenting to him a memento.

Rakesh, Jyoti win one gold and 2 silver medals in 7th FAZZA Para Archery World Ranking Tournament

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.



Sh Rakesh Kumar and Ms. Jyoti Balyan with their medals.

Meanwhile, 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.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra-182301.
Chief Executive Officer: 01991-232124,232075, Fax-232120
Addl. Chief Executive Officer: 01991-232818,9906019493
Dy. Chief Executive Officer (S): 01991-232769, 9906066669
Email: feedback@maavaishnodevi.net Website: www.maavaishnodevi.org