

जय माता दी



**Administrative Report
2016-17**



SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD





Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurating Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital at Kakryal, Katra.





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ABOUT SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD

The world renowned Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi situated in Trikuta Hills at Katra was earlier being managed by the Dharmarth Trust through Baridars. Pursuant to enactment of the **Jammu & Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act of 1986**, the management, administration and governance of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and its endowments including the land and buildings, beginning from Katra upto the Holy Cave, was entrusted to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on August 30, 1986.

As provided in the Act, the Governor of the State of J&K is the ex-officio Chairman of the Shrine Board who can nominate (in the manner as prescribed in the 'Act') upto nine eminent persons to the Board as its Members.



1. GENERAL

1.1. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) aims at providing better management, administration and governance of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and its endowments.

1.2. MANDATE OF THE BOARD

Section 18 of **The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act, 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.



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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.



2. CONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD AS ON 31-03-2017

CHAIRMAN: Shri N. N. Vohra, Governor, J&K (June 2008 -).

MEMBERS:

- Dr. E. Sreedharan, Principal Advisor, Delhi Metro Rail Corp (March 2009 -).
- Smt. Sudha Murty, Chairperson, Infosys Foundation (March 2009 -).
- Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary, J&K (March 2003 -).
- Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, eminent Santoor Maestro (January 2005 -).
- Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.), former Director General of Police, J&K (March 2012 -).
- Shri H. L. Maini, former Managing Director, J&K PCC (March 2012 -).
- Mr. Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli, former Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court (January 2015 -).
- Maj. Gen. Shiv Kumar Sharma, AVSM (Retd.) (January 2015 -).



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Profile of Hon'ble Chairman

N. N. Vohra: Governor J&K (June 2008 -) and Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (June 2008 -). Educated at the Punjab and Oxford Universities. Member of the Indian Administrative Service (1959-1994). Recipient of Padma Vibhushan (2007) and several other awards. Author of "Safeguarding India"; has been writing and lecturing on issues relating to Governance and National Security.

Profile of Hon'ble Board Members

Dr. E. Sreedharan, Principal Advisor, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation

Dr. Sreedharan, former Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, is fondly called the "Wheel of the Nation" for his tireless work in building the Konkan Railway and for his outstanding achievement in establishing the Delhi Metro before the scheduled date. In 2008, he was honoured with Padma Vibhushan, for his most outstanding services to the nation and in 2013, he was awarded "the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star" by the Government of Japan. Besides, he has been awarded about 16 Honorary Doctorate degrees by many prestigious institutions/ Universities.

Smt. Sudha Murty, Chairperson, Infosys Foundation

Smt. Sudha Murty, is Chairperson of the well known Infosys Foundation which she set up in 1996. M. Tech in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, she has been very actively contributing to the social upliftment of the poor and the neglected, under



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the aegis of Infosys Foundation. A philanthropist, teacher, prolific writer and columnist, Smt. Murty is a recipient of the Padma Shri Award (in 2006).

Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary, J&K

Credited with a distinguished administrative career in the IAS, Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria, had earlier served in the Army. Before taking over as the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, he has served as Director, Enforcement Directorate, in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Later he served as Vice Chancellor of the Central University, Jammu (August 2011 to August 2014). Awarded a Ph. D. in 1995 for his research on "The Battle of Zoji La-1948", Dr. Bloeria is the author of several well known books such as "Pakistan's Insurgency and India's Security", "The Dying Terrorism" and "The Men Who Served Jammu and Kashmir".

Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, eminent Santoor Maestro

Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, an internationally acclaimed Santoor maestro, has the distinction of bringing about the elevation of this folk instrument from the Valley of Kashmir to its present classical status. For his vast achievements, many prestigious national and international awards have been conferred upon Pt. Sharma, including Sangeet Natak Akademi award (1986) and Padma Vibhushan (2001).

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

An IPS officer of the 1976 batch, Dr. Bhan has served as Director General of Police, J&K and later as a Member of the National Security



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Advisory Board. He is a recipient of several distinguished awards including President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister's Medal for Honesty, Integrity and Meritorious Public Service and Paul Appleby Award for Distinguished Services to Public Administration.

Shri H. L. Maini, former Managing Director, J&K PCC

Shri H. L. Maini, Technical Consultant to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, has remained closely associated with various development activities of the Shrine Board since its inception. Shri Maini has been serving the Board for over 30 years and has been instrumental in overseeing the infrastructure development on and along the tracks, especially the construction of Himkoti track from Adhkuwari to Bhawan and the new tunnel at Bhawan to facilitate devotees.

Shri Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli, former Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court

Shri Justice Permod Kohli has earlier served as Legal Advisor to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. He has also served at the High Courts of Jharkhand and Punjab & Haryana before being elevated as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim in 2011. Shri Justice Kohli assumed charge of the office of Chairman, Central Administrative Tribunal in 2016. For his distinguished services in the field of Law, he was conferred Degree of Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) (Honoris Causa) by Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak in 2017.



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

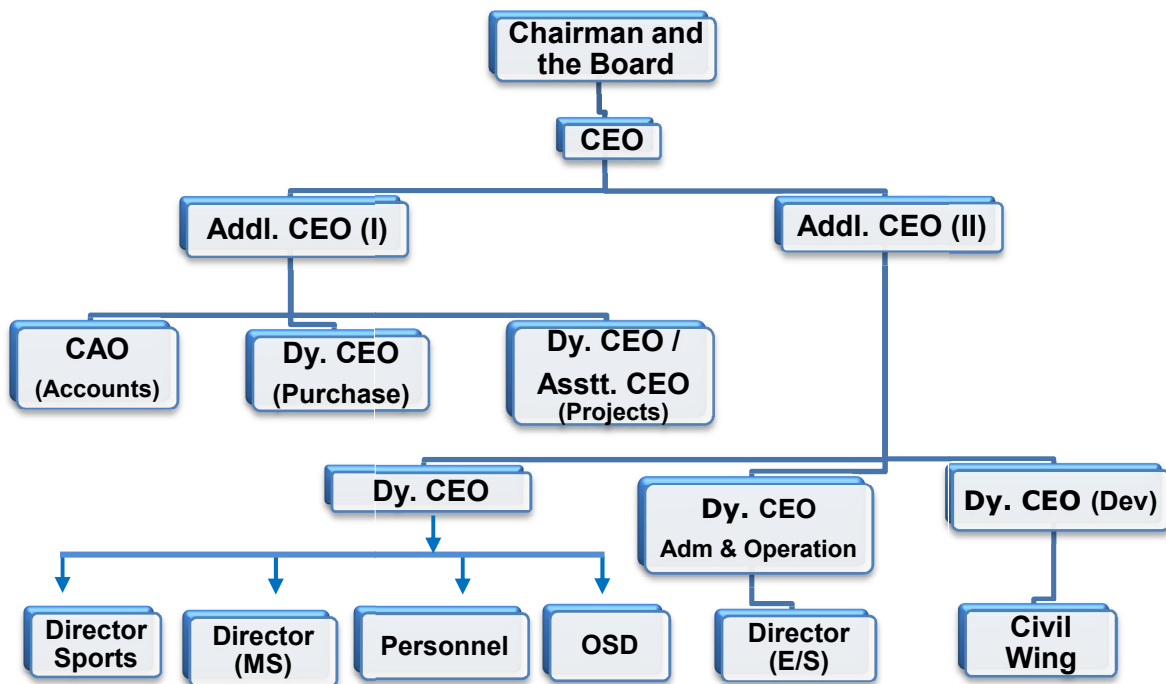
Maj Gen Shiv Kumar Sharma, AVSM (Retd.) has served the Indian Army for over 36 years. Having pursued super specialization in communication engineering from USA and Hungary, he has the experience of heading Post Graduate institutions in Army and in the civil set up for over 10 years. For his distinguished services, he has been awarded Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) by President of India, Commendation by Governor of Gujarat and Commendation by Chief of Army Staff.

Officers of the Board as on 31-03-2017

- Shri Ajeet Kumar Sahu, IAS, Chief Executive Officer (20 May 2015 -).
- Dr. M. K. Kumar, IFS, Additional Chief Executive Officer (18 April 2014 -).
- Dr. Piyush Singla, IAS, Additional Chief Executive Officer (01 February 2016 -).
- Shri Pankaj Gupta, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (29 August 2013 -).
- Shri Hem Kant Prasher, Chief Accounts Officer (21 December 2015 -).
- Shri Devinder Singh Bhau, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (29 August 2013 -).
- Dr. Arvind Karwani, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (21 December 2015 -).
- Shri Amit Vermani, KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer (06 April 2015 -).
- Shri Manu Hansa, Assistant Chief Executive Officer (01 February 2016 -).



ORGANISATIONAL SETUP



* Field units are headed by Senior Managers/ Managers/ other officers who report to the respective Dy. CEOs.



3. Yatra during the period

3.1. During the calendar year 2016, a total of 77,23,721 pilgrims visited the Shrine. The overall statistics reveal a stable trend in the yatra over the past three years.

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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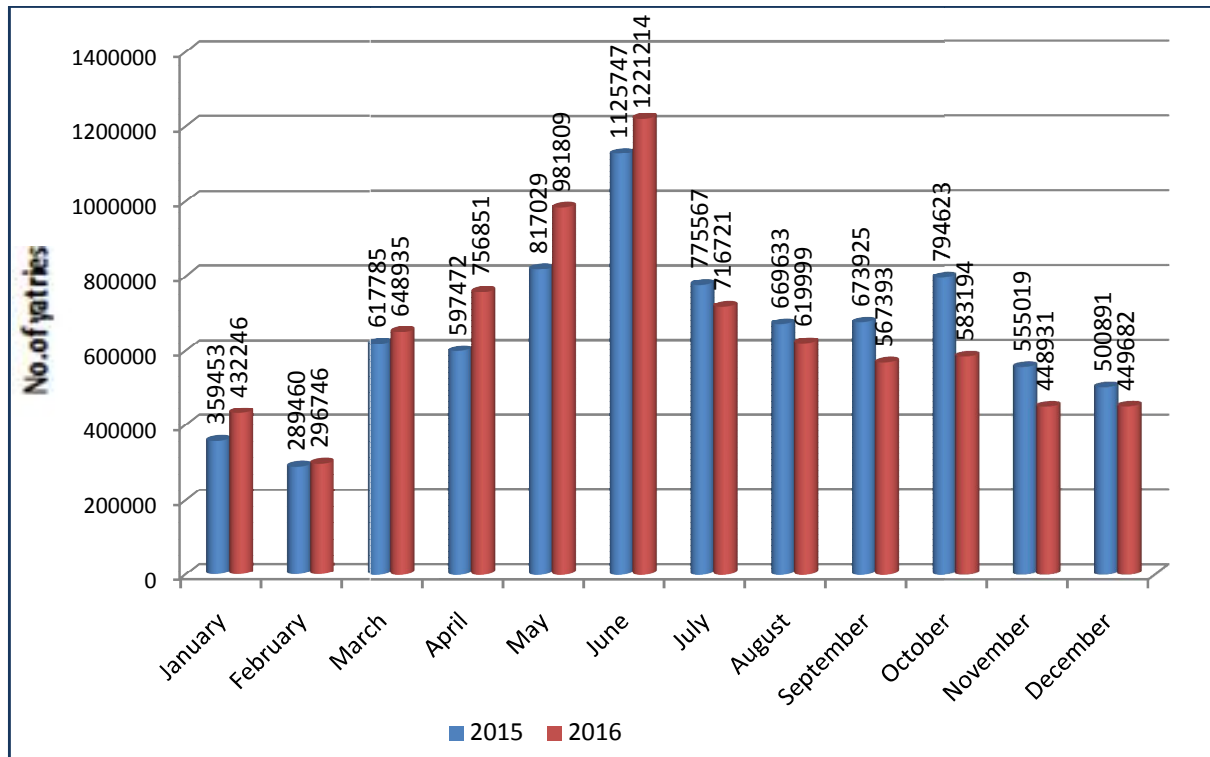
24	2009	82,34,896
25	2010	87,49,326
26	2011	1,01,15,647
27	2012	1,04,95,269
28	2013	93,23,647
29	2014	78,03,193
30	2015	77,76,604
31	2016	77,23,721

Month Wise yatra comparison 2015 v/s 2016

Month	2015 No. of Yatris	2016 No. of Yatris
January	359453	432246
February	289460	296746
March	617785	648935
April	597472	756851
May	817029	981809
June	1125747	1221214
July	775567	716721
August	669633	619999
September	673925	567393
October	794623	583194
November	555019	448931
December	500891	449682
Total	77,76,604	77,23,721



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The largest number of pilgrims who visited the Shrine was during June, 2016. The months of May and June are the peak season of the pilgrimage while the lean period is during November to February.

Yatris travel by various modes, as detailed below:

3.2. Helicopter Services

The one-way passenger fare (w.e.f. 01-10-2015) for heli-travel between Katra and Sanjichhat is Rs. 1170/- per passenger (inclusive of all taxes). These rates are 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 two months in advance and are also available on current ticket counters; preference is given to senior citizens and specially-abled pilgrims. A total of 5,08,786 yatris availed this service in the year 2016-17.

3.3. Battery Car

Pollution free Battery Car service between Adhkuwari and Bhawan on Himkoti Marg is also available which offers preference to senior citizens and specially-abled pilgrims. There are 5 operations of the 15 available Battery Cars at intervals of 3 hours at 7 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. subject to weather and track conditions. The charges per passenger from Adhkuwari to Bhawan are Rs. 300/- and for the return journey from Bhawan to Adhkuwari the fare is Rs. 200/-. The booking for Battery Car service is available only through current counters both at Adhkuwari and at Manokamna Bhawan. A total of 2,30,108 pilgrims used this facility in the year 2016-17.

3.4. Ponies

Ponies are available for the journey from Katra to Bhawan via Sanjichhat Track which takes about 3 hours to complete. There are more than 4,000 ponies available and all 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.



3.5. Palkis

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

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

S. No.	Mode	Destination	Charges (Rs.)	Remarks
1.	Ponies	Katra-Bhawan	700/-	One way
2.	Pithoo	Katra to Bhawan and back	700/-	To and Fro
3.	Palki	Katra to Bhawan and back	4000/-	To and Fro

3.6. Auspicious periods of Navratras

The most auspicious periods of Navratras both in September/October and March witnessed a heavy rush of pilgrims and to facilitate the increasing number of yatris the Shrine Board made special arrangements. These included decorating the Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Atka and the area surrounding it with flowers brought from various parts of the country and abroad. Sufficient provision of food and supply of water and power were made along the track and in the Bhawan area, besides ensuring sanitation along the entire route. Special arrangements for providing “fasting food” were made at the Bhojanalayas of the Board. Shat Chandi Maha Yagya was organised by the Board at the Holy Cave Shrine during



Navratras for peace and prosperity, in accordance with the prevalent practice.

3.7. 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 in the winter months from the start of the queue at Gate No. 3 upto the Holy Cave.

3.8. Opening of Natural Cave

The natural Cave was opened for pilgrims on Makar Sankranti with performing of special pooja. The SDM Bhawan was authorised to regulate the darshan through natural Cave considering the rush and congestion at Bhawan to avoid any inconvenience to the pilgrims. During 2016-17 as many as 1,25,560 pilgrims had darshan via the natural Cave.

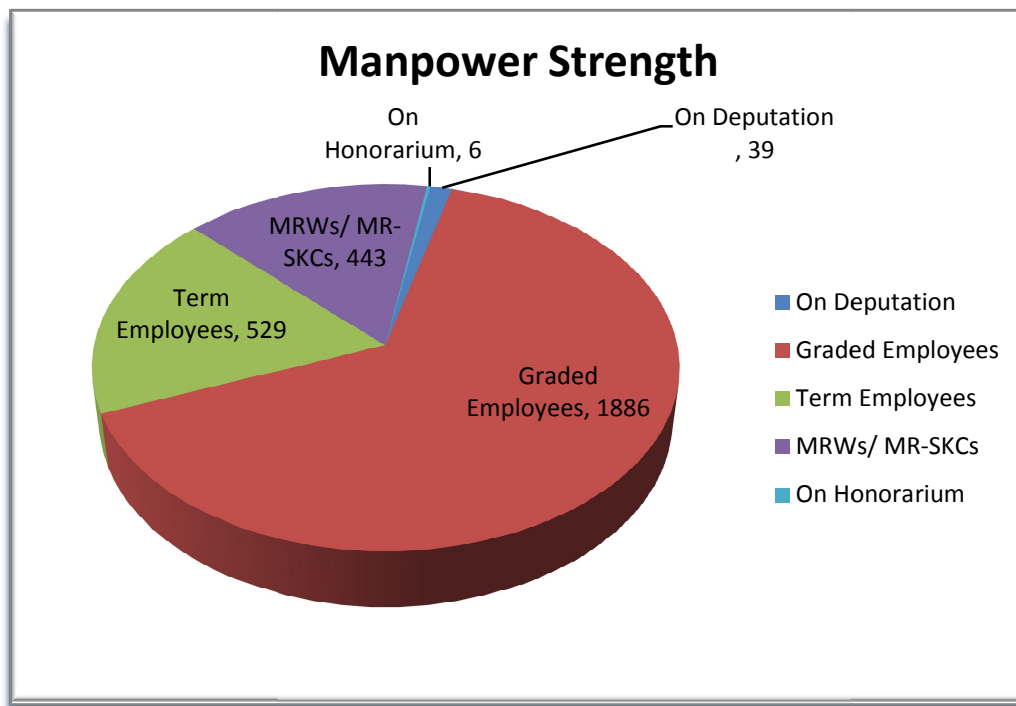


4. HR Initiatives

4.1. The total manpower employed by the Board is as follows:

- **Strength as on 31.03.2017**

Type of Employment	Manpower Strength
On Deputation	39
Graded Employees	1886
Term Employees	529
MRWs/ MR-SKCs*	443
On Honorarium	6
Total	2903

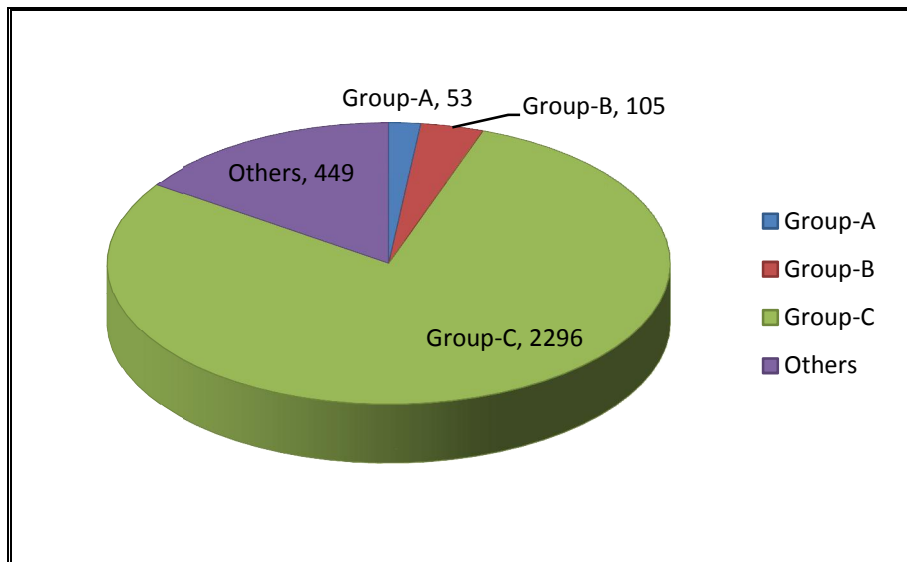


* Muster Roll Workers/Muster Roll Safaikaramcharis



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Group wise Manpower Strength	
Group-A	53
Group-B	105
Group-C	2296
Others	449
Total	2903



- **During April-16 to March-17, 94 employees joined the Board under various categories as under:**

On Deputation : 06

On Term Employment : 88



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- During financial year 2016-17, 45 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	0	0	0	4
2	On Superannuation	1	1	12	0	14
3	On Resignation	4	4	10	1	19
4	Death	0	0	3	0	3
5	Other reasons	0	2	2	1	5
Total		9	7	27	2	45

4.2. Capacity Building

The Board at its 56th Meeting (held on 11.09.2015), had approved a proposal regarding capacity building/ skill up-gradation of the Board's employees through training programmes prepared by various domain experts. In this regard, an annual allocation of Rs. 100.00 lakh was also approved by the Board.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Kakryal was engaged for carrying out a focused study on "Training Needs Assessment" to identify the gap between the job expectations from employees and their actual capacities. Based on a group study and interaction with 521 employees in various cadres, the SMVDU's team submitted a detailed report with significant findings, observations and recommendations. Accordingly, an annual training calendar was



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devised to link training with performance appraisal of employees, to improve supplementary skills of employees to equip them for multitasking, developing a pool of in-house Master Trainers, identification of training areas at individual level, occupational level and organizational level, providing mandatory training for a minimum of 5 days in a year for every employee etc.

Accordingly, during FY 2016-17, various domain experts and national level agencies like National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) and other experts were approached and 50 training/ capacity building programmes for (different categories) of more than 950 employees were organized in diverse areas such as Disaster Management, Basic Life Support, Computer Skills, Housekeeping and Sanitation, Food Safety Management, Orientation training for the newly recruited staff, Training for Catering Staff, soft skills and Management Development Programmes etc.



Shrine Board staff participating in capacity building training programme



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In addition, four officers of Shrine Board also attended the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at New Delhi and 6th Icon Solid Waste Management-2016 at Kolkata.



Shrine Board staff being trained in providing basic life support by way of applying Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation

4.3. Training Programmes conducted in 2016-17

Category wise Training Programmes				
S. No.	Name of the training programme	Training institute/ faculty	Location/ venue	No. of participants
1	Training programme on "Basic Computer Skills"	NIELIT, Jammu Centre	NIELIT, University of Jammu	78
2	Training Programme on 'Guest relations, interpersonal skills, Behavioural, remedial and soft skills by Ashoka Institute of	Ashoka Institute of Hospitality & Tourism Mgt. (ITDC)	Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra	120



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	Hospitality and Tourism Management (ITDC), New Delhi			
3	Training Programme on "Basic Life Support"	ASCOMS	Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra	172
4	Training programme for the Malis of SMVDSB	Floriculture Department, J&K Govt.	Director, Floriculture Department, J&K Govt, 24 C/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu	10
5	Training Programme for the Plumbers of SMVDSB	Jaquar & Co. Pvt. Ltd., Jammu	Jaquar & Co. Pvt. Ltd. (Orientation Centre), Kunjwani, Jammu.	12
6	Training Programme on "Ethics and Morality in Public Administration"	IIPA, J&K Regional Branch Complex, Jammu	IIPA, Jammu	5
7	Exclusive and Independent TED talk event TEDX SMVDU	SMVDU	SMVDU, Kakryal-Katra	8
8	In-house Trainings	In-house Trainings	Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra and other locations	171
9	Training Programme on Control Measures for Landslides	NIDM in collaboration with CSIR-CBRI,	CSIR- CBRI, Roorkee, Uttarakhand	6



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		Roorkee		
10	Training Course on Training Instruments in HRD & OD for Master Trainers in Forestry Sector	Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai	Mumbai	1
11	Training Programme on Announcement Skills for the employees of SMVD Shrine Board	Sh. Satish Malhotra, Programme Head, Prasar Bharati, Radio Kashmir, Jammu	Radio Kashmir, Jammu.	15
12	On the site in-house Training Programme on "Food Safety Management System in SMVDSB"	Experts from FCI (Sh. Jyoti Bhatti, Principal, FCI)	Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra	20
13	Basic Training Programme on Disaster Management	NDRF	Adhkuwari	110
14	Food Safety Management System	Dy. Controller, Drugs and Food Control Organisation, Jammu	Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra	30
15	Training on Cash Registrex Machine	Sh. O.P. Tyagi, R.S. Enterprises, New Delhi	Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra	30
16	Training Programme on Handling of POS Machine	HDFC / State Bank of India	Spiritual Growth Centre,	21



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			Katra	
17	Financial Control in Non-Profit Organizations	Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat (IRMA)	Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat (IRMA)	2
18	Capacity Building Programme for service providers (pony owners, pithoos & palkiwalas)	Sahyog India (Brooke India) - Dr. D. R. Kapoor	SGC, Katra	142
Total				953

4.4. Staff Welfare:

4.4.1 During the FY 2016-17 various normal HR/Staff welfare activities were undertaken by the Board so as to ensure that the Human Resource of the Shrine Board remains critically aligned to organizational priorities. The following are some of the highlights of the HR initiatives taken during the period 2016-17:

- Promotions : 42
- Higher Pay Grade/ Time Bound : 469
- Migration from Term Employment to Graded (Regular) setup : 321
- Movement from MR-SKC to Graded pay structure : 47
- Movement from MRW to Term Employment : 89
- Increase in the retirement age from 58 to 60 years
- Enhancement of Maternity Leave from 90 days to 180 days



4.4.2 Interactions & Grievance Redressal Camps

A robust institutional mechanism has been put in place for organising interactions and redressing grievances of the staff. In this connection, the CEO and other concerned officers of the Board interact with them by organising grievance redressal programmes from time to time for on spot listening and addressing the difficulties of the staff working on the track, in the Bhawan area and other locations. The awards comprising silver coins and certificates are also given to some of the Safaikaramcharis and other employees as a token of appreciation for their outstanding performance and devotion to duty during these programmes.

Besides, under the Open Door Policy, on Tuesdays the CEO or the Additional CEO (Personnel) and a team of concerned officers listens to the grievances and personnel related matters of the staff with a view to ensure their speedy resolution. A total of 305 applications received in these sessions during 2016-17 were disposed of in a time bound manner.

4.4.3 Policy for compassionate appointments

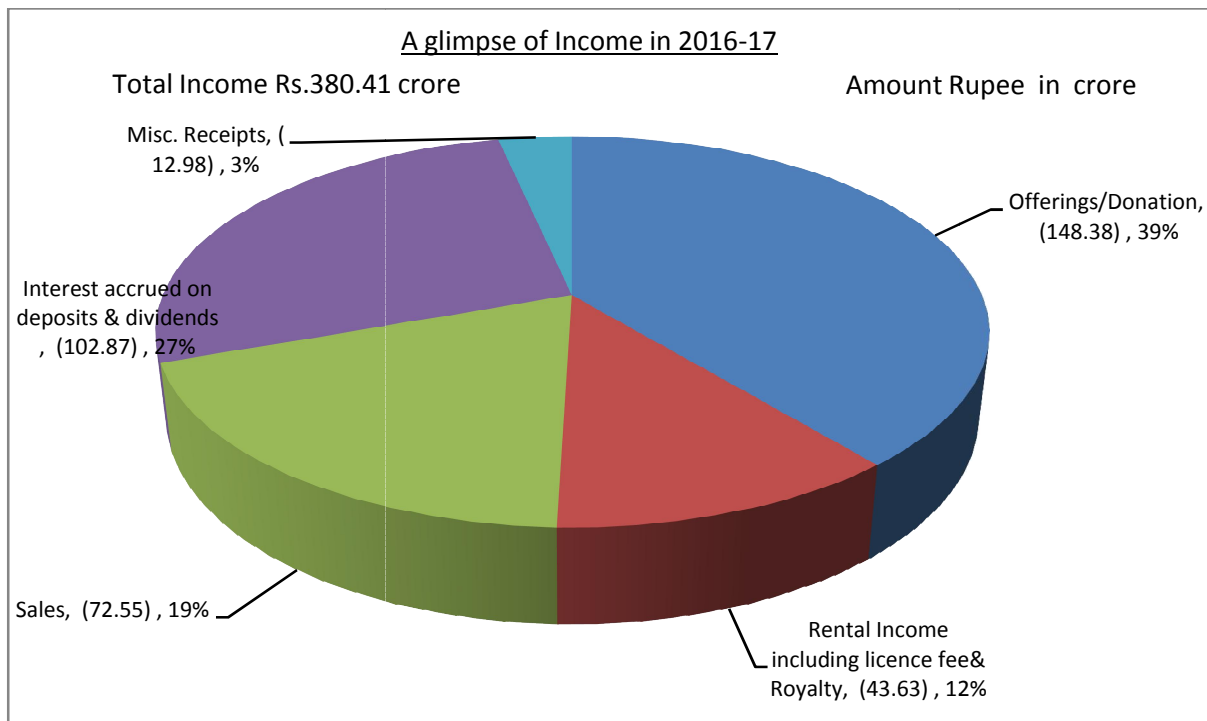
A policy for compassionate appointment for dependent family member of any employee who died in harness was approved by the Board in 2016-17.



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5. Income and Expenditure

Income during FY 2016-17		
S. No.	Items	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	Offerings/Donation	148.38
2	Rental Income including licence fee & Royalty	43.63
3	Sales	72.55
4	Interest accrued on deposits & dividends	102.87
5	Misc. Receipts	12.98
		380.41

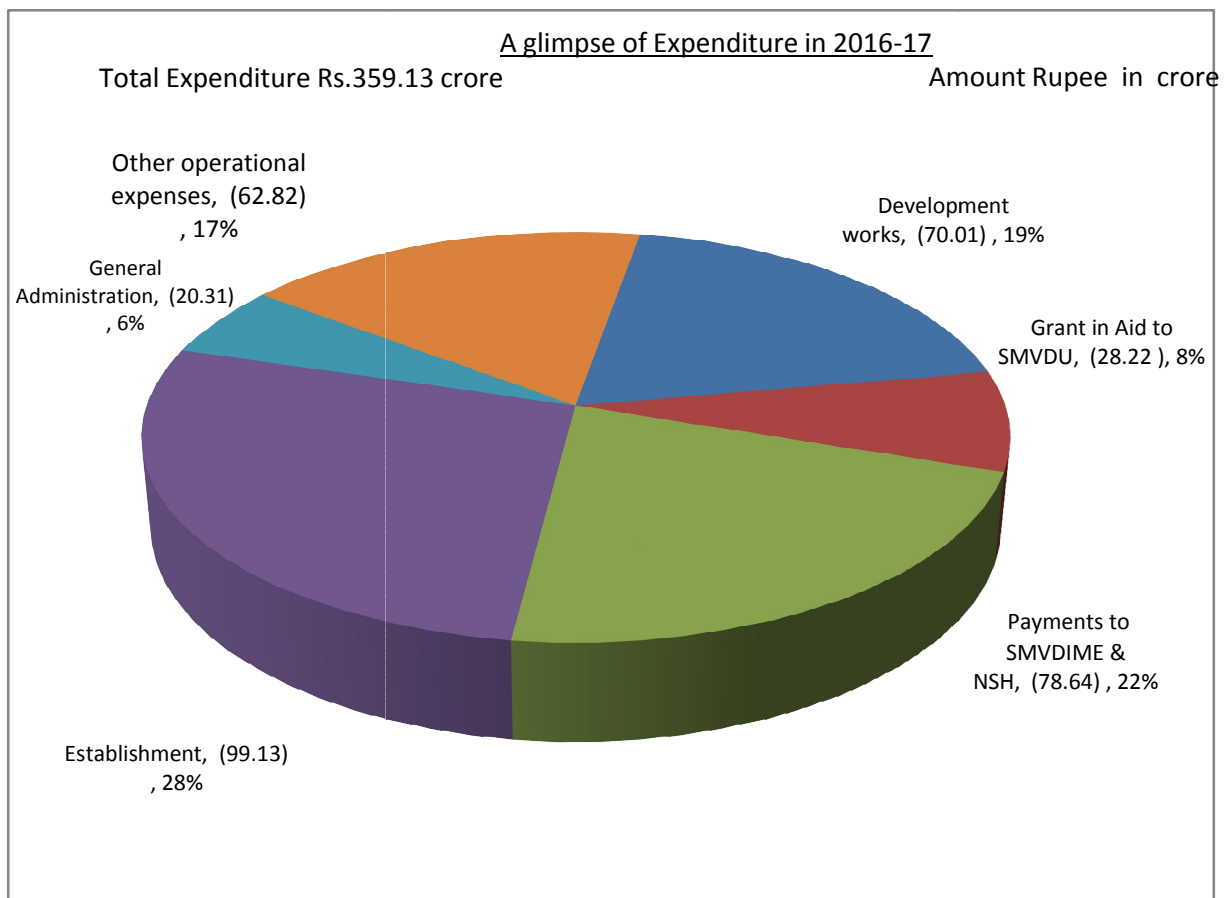


Note: The figures shown in the pie chart are Pre-Audited and are subject to change after finalisation of Audit for the F.Y. 2016-17



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Expenditure during FY 2016-17		
S.No	Name of the Account Head	2016-17
		Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	Development works	70.01
2	Grant in Aid to SMVDU	28.22
4	Payments to SMVDNSH	78.64
5	Establishment	99.13
6	General Administration	20.31
9	Other operational expenses	62.82
	Total	359.13



Note: The figures shown in the pie chart are Pre-Audited and are subject to change after finalisation of Audit for the F.Y. 2016-17



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6. Audit Report for Financial Year 2015-16

The Statutory Audit of the Shrine Board's Accounts for FY 2015-16 was conducted by M/s S. R. Batliboi & Co. The Board noted the Audit observations raised in the Notes to Accounts and adopted the Balance Sheet for Financial Year 2015-16 in the 59th Board meeting held on 09-04-2017. As per Board's decisions, it is ensured that every Audit observation is settled on a time bound basis.



7. Initiatives and Achievements

The Board has been adopting latest technologies and taking recurring initiatives for enhancing facilities for pilgrims and has thus taken a series of the steps for ensuring sanitation and cleanliness on the tracks and in the entire Shrine area. In addition, the Board is also supplementing the efforts of the Municipal Committee for making Katra a model of cleanliness. For the purpose, the Board has deployed a workforce of more than 650 sanitation staff to provide sanitation services round the clock. In furtherance of these objectives, the Shrine Board has implemented several projects, many are under implementation and while a host of others are in the pipeline. Side by side, the Board is taking up number of projects for expansion and upgradation of civic amenities in Katra. Besides, Vaishno Devi-Katra, has also been selected by the Central Government under the Swachh Iconic Places Project, which will give a further fillip to sanitation, cleanliness and civic amenities in Katra. The initiatives being implemented by the Board include:

7.1 Curbing use of Plastic and Polythene

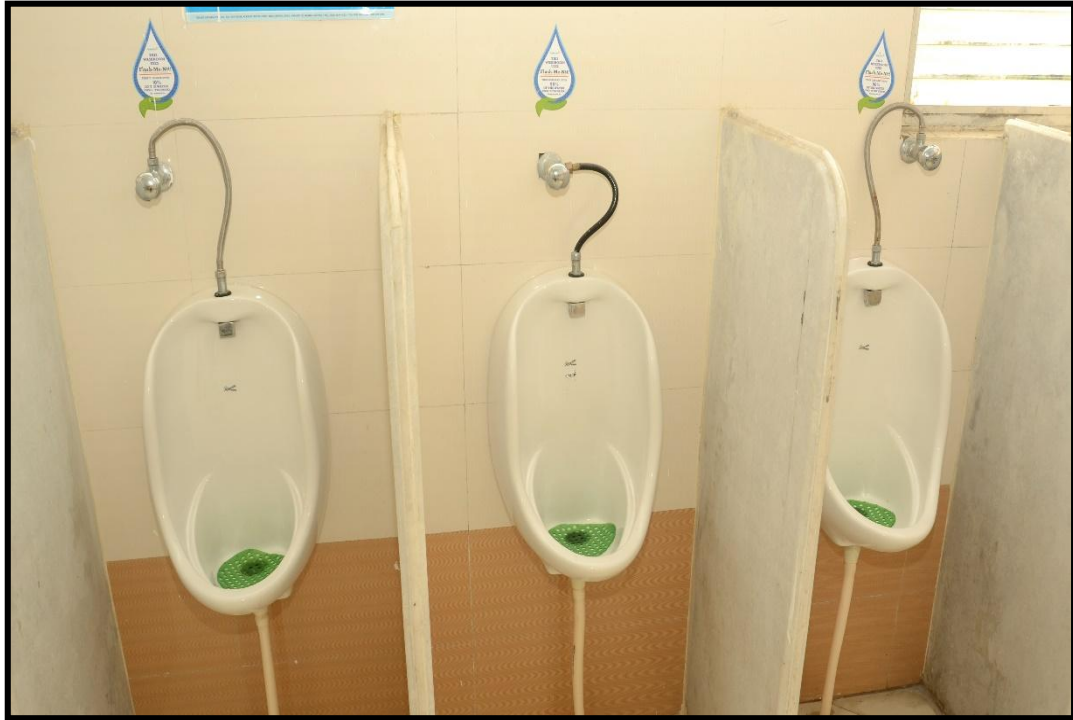
In a significant initiative to promote green technologies and to curb the use of plastic and polythene, the Shrine Board has resorted to the use of eco-friendly non-woven bags, jute bags, corn starch-based bags etc for packing purposes. Besides, the polythene prasad pouches have been replaced



with paper pouches. The Board has also disbanded other polythene plastic based packing material such as glasses/ spoons etc. and instead the bio-degradable / corn starch-based, food grade alternatives have been introduced; not withstanding their higher cost vis-a-vis conventional plastic/ polythene material.

7.2 Waterless Urinals

The Board has adopted “Flush-Me-Not” technology for reducing the very large quantity of water consumed for flushing of the 322 urinal pods which are installed in Bhawan area and other establishments of the Board. This is a cost effective technology which, besides saving expenditure on water, also saves expenditure on chemical disinfectants. This solution has been found working satisfactorily in all the urinals. The major benefits of this technology are that it can save 60% to 70% of water (which was being used earlier for flushing and cleaning of urinals), it provides controlled and consistent fragrance in the urinals as compared to conventional cleaning etc. With the adoption of new technology, at an average, every urinal saves around 10,000 to 12,500 litres of water in a month. Accordingly, this solution will help in saving more than 350 lakh litres of water every year, which would be a very significant saving of a valuable resource.



7.3 Toilet Blocks – Construction/Upgradation

As part of the Shrine Board's continuing efforts for enlarging and upgrading facilities for the pilgrims, a phased and time bound programme has been undertaken for the renovation and upgradation of all Toilet Blocks on the tracks from Katra to Bhawan to significantly improve sanitation and cleanliness in the Shrine area, besides providing superior facilities to the Yatris. The renovation and upgradation of 36 Toilet Blocks has been taken up in the year 2016-17 at an estimated cost of about Rs. 3.5 crore and of these 33 Toilet Blocks have been completed. An Annual Maintenance Plan has also been formulated for ensuring satisfactory upkeep of Toilet Blocks, some of which have been equipped with western style seats

to meet the requirements of senior citizens and specially-abled persons.



7.4 Sewage Treatment Plants

For ensuring sanitation and cleanliness on the track and in the entire Shrine area, cluster Sewage Treatment Plants in various accommodation clusters and at major Yatra stations are being set up. Sewage Treatment Plants with 4.6 MLD installed capacity for treating sewage waste are currently functioning and one new STP with 400 KLD capacity is under construction at Niharika, Katra. Similarly, the work has been allotted for constructing another STP at Adhkuwari (400 KLD). In addition, 3 packaged STPs are also being installed at stand-alone locations for trial functioning. These are



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envisaged to be replicated at other places after successful trials. Similarly, bio-remediation has also been attempted in one of the toilet blocks on Yatra Track and feasibility of its replication at other places is being considered. All the Toilet Blocks at Bhawan have been connected to the 3.2 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant. The construction of new Sewage Treatment Plants to connect the remaining Toilet Blocks, is in progress. Some of the Toilet Blocks are being connected with stand-alone packaged STPs as connecting these blocks with regular STPs is not geographically and otherwise feasible. The eco-friendly efforts of the Board are aimed at ensuring protection of ecology and conservation of resources.



Sewage Treatment Plant at Trikuta Bhawan, Katra



7.5 Sanitation Campaigns

The Board is also getting a Master Plan prepared through the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, encompassing various components including solid waste management, improved sanitation mechanism, Banganga Riverfront Development etc.

In addition, projects have been initiated for Mapping of Banganga River Ecosystem and generating base line data; designing of Waste Sewerage Handling System and STP for public toilets and private area of Purana Daroor; segregation of contaminated water and the natural water by constructing dedicated gravity drainage Nallahs alongside the rivulet; soil moisture conservation measures, construction of check dams, etc. for river basin improvement and preparation of DPRs for various identified interventions.

Besides, the Board has been organising special sanitation campaigns on its own as well as in collaboration with NGOs to enlarge awareness about sanitation. The sanitation campaigns organised during FY 2016-17 include the following:

- Swachh Banganga Abhiyaan for undertaking massive cleanliness drive of Banganga was organised on 12-11-2016 in which 170 staff members of the Board and



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- volunteers of the International Volunteer Foundation (NGO) participated.
- A 10-day special sanitation drive was organised in Bhawan Sector w.e.f. 01-07-2016 to 10-07-2016.
 - A day-long workshop on Solid Waste Management Issues pertaining to Katra town was organised on 17-08-2016 on the theme “Say No to Polythene”.
 - Swachhta Abhiyaan was organised at Banganga, Katra under Swachh Bharat Mission by the District Administration, Reasi in collaboration with District Police, Shrine Board, Municipal Committee, Katra and NGOs in January 2017.
 - In addition, the Shrine Board also organised special sanitation drives during Navratras twice the year on the track and in the Bhawan area.



Shrine Board staff involved in sanitation drive for cleaning of Banganga

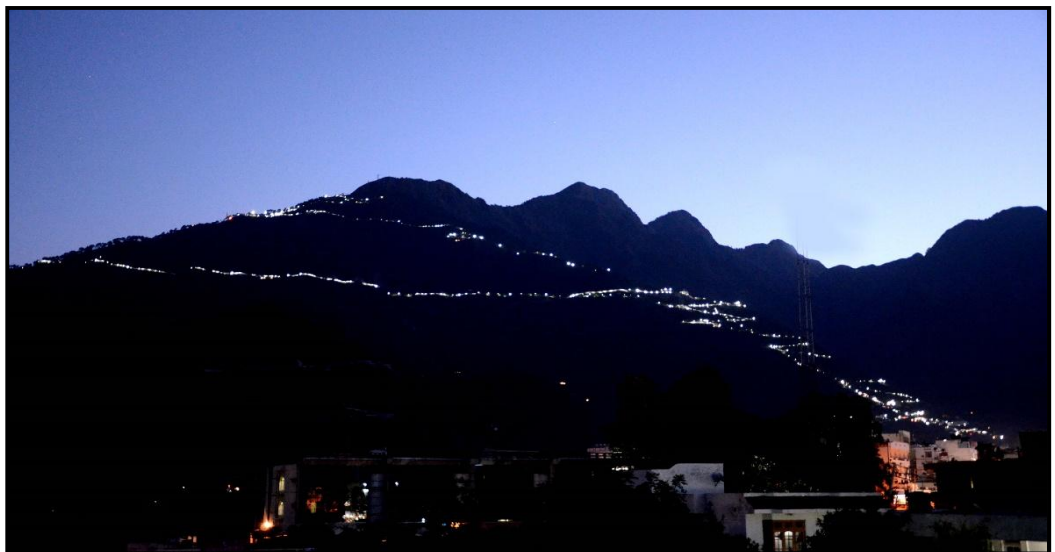


7.6 LED Lights

As a responsible organization operating in the public domain, the Shrine Board has always been conscious of the need for energy conservation. During the FY 2016-17, the Shrine Board replaced 1400 conventional street lights with energy efficient LED lights.



LED lights installed on the track



A night view of illuminated track leading to the Shrine



7.7 Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative

As per seismic classification, the Shrine area falls under Zone V and is susceptible to earthquakes. A large part of the extended Shrine area is covered with a dense pine forest, making it prone to frequent forest fires, particularly during summer. Besides, several stretches of the track enroute the Shrine are prone to falling stones and landslides, particularly during the rainy season.

The safety and security of the pilgrims has continued to be the Board's prime concern and continuous efforts are being made towards capacity building preparedness to deal with any disaster situation. Some of the measures taken by Shrine Board to handle/ manage Disaster like situations are as under:

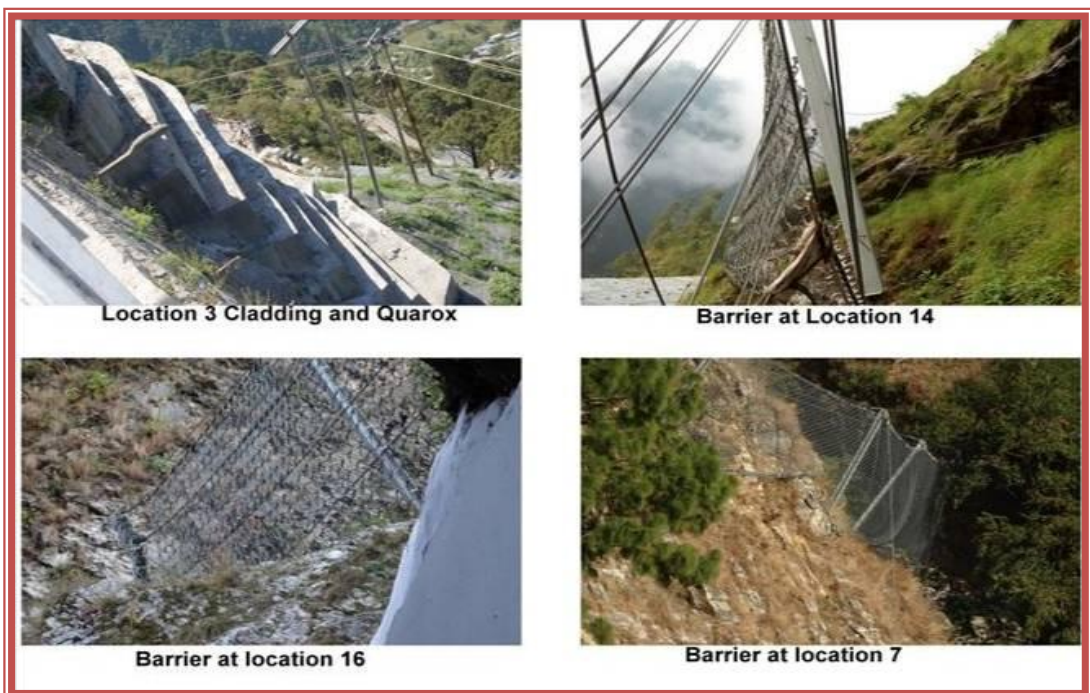
- i. The normal CGI sheets of the sheds on the track have been replaced with specially designed 18 gauge sheets procured from Steel Authority of India Ltd, to provide extra protection against shooting stones in several vulnerable areas.
- ii. Several uncovered portions of the track have been covered with sheds of the special CGI sheets.



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- iii. Persistent efforts have been devoted to achieve slope stabilisation by covering the hillsides with suitable plantations.





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- iv. M/s Pioneer Foundation Engineers, Mumbai, and Geobrugg AG, Switzerland have been engaged by the Shrine Board for taking up slope stabilization work at identified 05 Locations in first phase i) Near Inderprastha Bhojanalaya ii) Near Devi Dwar iii) Near Panchhi Staff Colony iv) Near Battery Car Stand v) Near Gate No. 3 at Bhawan.
- v. Forest observation posts have been established on top ridges of the Trikuta Hills and Fire Watchers are deployed at vulnerable places to keep a watch on forest fires.
- vi. Fire Hydrants and Fire extinguishers have been installed in the establishments of Shrine Board.
- vii. Disaster Management Stores containing emergency equipment/ material to handle disaster like situations have been established at Banganga, Adhkuwari, Sanjichhat and Bhawan. These stores have been fortified with Medical First responder Kits, Hardback Stretchers, Inflatable Lighting Towers, Air Mist Technology, Fire Extinguishers and Fire Pumps etc.



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Well equipped Disaster Management Stores



Inside view of a Disaster Management Store



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Disaster Management Store at Sanjichhat



Joint Control Room set up by Shrine Board at Katra for facilitation of pilgrims



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Alongside the aforesaid initiatives, Shrine Board has taken significant steps to create awareness and capacity building of the Board's officials deployed in the Shrine area to handle disaster related emergencies.

Regular mock drills were organised at various locations in which employees of Shrine Board, CRPF, JKP and Fire and Emergency Services Department posted in the Shrine area also participated. Advance training for the employees of Shrine Board was organised through premier institutes like National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). These programmes had particular focus on capacity building of Master Trainers and Disaster Management Task Force personnel of Shrine Board, with a view to build up their confidence to handle any emergency situation and to enable them to better coordinate, direct, and train other staff. The main focus areas covered were:

- Search and Rescue
- Evacuation
- Emergency Medical Services and Medical First responder
- Mock Drill



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NDRF team imparting Disaster Management training to Shrine Board staff



Disaster Management training in progress



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NDRF team giving demonstration to Shrine Board staff



Rescue Operation during Mock Drill at Bhawan



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Fire being extinguished during Mock Drill



Rescue operation during Mock Drill at Bhawan



7.8 Conservation of Environment

The major achievements of Action Plan 2016-17 are as under:

- i. Afforestation activities were taken up in 70 Ha area by planting 66690 saplings in Trikuta Hills.
- ii. 1050 CuM of Dry Rubble Stone Masonry (DRSM) structures and 06 Water Harvesting Ponds were constructed as part of Soil Moisture Conservation measures.
- iii. 1.66 lakh plants (including 0.28 lakh container plants and 1.38 lakh poly bag plants of different ornamental, horticulture and medicinal species) were produced in the Shrine Board Nursery.
- iv. The entire work of Nursery (including Civil Works, Administrative Building, Connecting Road etc.) was completed.
- v. 500 cft of Vermi Compost was produced and supplied to various planting units.
- vi. To prevent and control recurring forest fires during the peak dry season, fire line of 46.5 km was created and 55 Fire Watchers were also deployed on temporary basis.



- vii. Landscape Plan to improve the aesthetics of the upcoming Tarakote Marg was taken up.



A view of Shrine Board's hi-tech Nursery at Kunia, Panthal

8. Social Support Initiatives

8.1. Financial Support provided to various organisations

The Board has been providing financial support to various organisations who are involved in carrying out social, cultural, sports and humanitarian activities. Some of the organizations which were provided assistance are the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Welfare Society Narwal, Jammu, All J&K Chess Association for organizing South Asian Amateur Chess Championship, Rajya Sainik Board, Jammu, Ramakrishana Mission, J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides, SOS Children's Village (Balgran), Channi Rama, Jammu, Samaj Kalyan Kendra, Shahidi Chowk, Jammu.



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8.2. Katra / Sira-Kakryal Development

Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of the Shrine Board approved assistance of Rs. 10 crore for taking up developmental works in and around Katra Town, besides, additional works for development of Sira-Kakryal.

The details of works identified along with estimated costs thereof are as under:

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakh)
1	Developmental works to promote welfare of 167 families of Sira Colony	79.83
2.	Installation of 06 Stainless Steel Bus Passenger Sheds on Kakryal-Domail-Manthal axis	28.33
3.	Establishment of Children Playground/ equipment at various locations in Municipal Area, Katra	25.00
4.	Illumination of Roads from Manthal to Kakryal and Domail to Kakryal by installing Solar Power sensor based LED street lights	20.20
	Total	153.36

Till 31-03-2017 an amount of **Rs.11,79,655/-** was spent on these works which are expected to be completed by December 2017.



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The proposal for creating civic infrastructure in Katra town at an estimated cost of **Rs. 650.53 lakh** was approved as per the following details:

- i. Providing and fixing of ornamental railing Central Verge on the road leading to Railway Station, Katra with dual lamp LED street lights.
- ii. Providing underground waste collection bin system for Katra town.
- iii. a) Construction of circular road from Hansali via Bhumika Mandir to Panthal Road, Katra.
b) Construction of Lane and Drain from Matyal Petrol Pump to Darshani Deodi.
- iv. a) Reconstruction of old Darshani Deodi at Katra.
b) Landscaping at Reasi Road, Katra.

8.3. **Erstwhile Baridar Welfare measures**

For promoting welfare of the erstwhile Baridars' families, the Board has undertaken various schemes. These include providing scholarships for facilitating the education of students, providing financial support for marriage of daughters of erstwhile Baridar families, creation of livelihood avenues etc. initiatives in the shape of Baridar Welfare Scheme. During the financial year 2016-17 the total amount spent on the



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erstwhile Baridar Welfare activities as per the details given below:

S.No.	Particular	Amount (in lakh)
1	Scholarship	66.00
2	Welfare of Girl Child	9.00
3.	Assistance on marriage of daughters	23.00
4	Marketing Support to Self Help Groups	227.00

Besides, the Board has also been supporting various nearby schools (benefiting a sizeable chunk of erstwhile Baridars' families) in creation of infrastructure. An assistance of **Rs. 10.35 lakh** has been provided for upgrading the infrastructure facilities in Government Primary School, Kakryal. Further, **Rs. 32.47 lakh** have been sanctioned by the Board for constructing a science laboratory in Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Reasi. The Board has also adopted Government Middle School, Sanjichhat where all expenses including on books, uniforms, mid-day meals etc. are borne by the Board. Besides, the Board is bearing expenses of a teacher posted in Bhamag area who is providing education mainly to the students of erstwhile Baridar families. All these initiatives of the Shrine Board have completely transformed the education scenario in the area by providing greater and varied opportunities for the youth to shape their careers in different spheres of human endeavour.



- **Welfare of Girl Child**

The Board has introduced a Girl Child Scheme which covers all the girls born during the Silver Jubilee Year of the Shrine Board (30-08-2011 to 30-08-2012) in the families of the erstwhile Baridars and the Shrine Board employees, during the aforesaid period.

Under this Scheme, **Rs. 1.00 lakh** has been earmarked in the shape of a Fixed Deposit in the name of the girl child and can be encashed only after she completes 12th class or attains the age of 18 years. The maturity amount shall be utilized for pursuing higher or vocational education or for undertaking self-employment. Out of the 156 girls covered under this Scheme 79 belong to the erstwhile Baridar families and 77 to the employees of the Shrine Board. An amount of **Rs. 1.56 crore** has been deposited in the names of the 156 girls born during the Silver Jubilee Year of the Board.

The families of these girls are also being provided Rs. 500/- per month for the nutrition and proper upbringing of the girl child till they attain the age of 18 years and under this head **Rs. 32.16 lakh** has been paid so far to the parents.

The girls covered under the scheme are also entitled, as they grow up, to avail normal scholarships under the scheme which covers students belonging to the erstwhile Baridar families. Further, at the time of marriage, the girls adopted by the Board,

would also be eligible for the same scale of financial assistance as is paid to the daughters of erstwhile Baridar families.

- **Marketing Support to Self Help Groups**

The Shrine Board is providing dedicated marketing support to the products produced by self help groups created by the Shrine Board comprising primarily of women belonging to the erstwhile Baridar families. These 8 Self Help Groups working in the villages surrounding the Shrine are engaged in making Ladoo Prasad and preparing Bracelets. Both these items are being purchased by the Board and sold from its souvenir shops. During the FY 2016-17, material amounting to **Rs.2,27,31,486/-** was bought from these Self Help Groups.



A Women Self Help Group preparing Ladoo Prasad



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8.4. Medical Support Policy

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has approved a Policy for providing Medical Support to various categories of patients viz. 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 Land Owners (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 Shrine Board). During the FY 2016-17, expenditure amounting to Rs.1,13,38,615/- was made by the Board as per the details depicted below:

S. No.	Category	OPD / IPD	FY/ 2016-17	
			(Apr,16 - Mar,17)	
			No.	Expenditure (In Rs.)
1	Pilgrims	OPD/ IPD	137	43,14,792
2	Landowners	OPD	97	1,25,948
3	Villagers	OPD	114	0
4	Employees & their dependents	OPD	4260	28,99,248
		IPD	72	8,63,437
5	Students of SMVDCoN	OPD	154	89,855
		IPD	1	2,653
6	Students of Gurukul	OPD	44	50,212
		IPD	0	0
7	Gratuitous Relief	OPD/ IPD	62	29,92,470
Total:			4941	1,13,38,615



9. Major Projects

i) Material Ropeway

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has been making concerted efforts to provide best possible facilities to the pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, by using the latest technologies in various fields. Carrying forward these initiatives, work on two major projects namely Bhawan-Bhairon Ghati Passenger Ropeway and Material Ropeway between Siar Dabri, (near Katra) and Bhawan, is progressing very well. Both these projects are expected to be commissioned in 2018.

Necessary clearances for the execution of two Ropeways have been obtained. The civil work as well as mechanical work in respect of these projects is being executed speedily at all stations while all the imported equipment has also been received.

The Passenger Ropeway between Bhawan and Bhairon Ghati is estimated to cost Rs. 60 crore, while the Material Ropeway between Siar Dabri and Bhawan would involve an expenditure of nearly Rs. 12 crore. M/s RITES, a Government of India Enterprise, was engaged as a consultant for design, manufacture, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of both these Ropeway Projects. Both these high utility projects are part of the several initiatives taken by the Board for augmenting facilities to



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cope up with the progressively increasing pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine.

The Material Ropeway is being installed for transportation of material from Katra to Bhawan and for bringing the collected garbage to Katra (for further disposal) at a faster pace. This project will help in decongesting the track for facilitating smooth movement of pilgrims. The length of this Ropeway is 2983 metres with level difference of 977 metres. This Ropeway Project is being executed by a joint venture of M/s Space Age Power Pvt. Ltd, Srinagar and M/s Ropeway Resorts Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata. The Ropeway has been designed to carry five tons of material in one hour.



Under construction Upper Terminal of Siar Dabri-Bhawan Material Ropeway



ii) 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 shall have the capacity to carry 800 pilgrims per hour. The work on this project had been undertaken by a joint venture between M/s Garaventa AG, Switzerland and M/s Damodar Ropeways & Construction Co. (P) Ltd., India. The equipment and cabins of the ropeway have been imported from Switzerland.



Lower tower of Bhawan-Bhairon Ghati Passenger Ropeway under installation



iii) Slope Stabilization

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has launched a project, which is being executed in phases, to protect, treat and stabilise 33 sites on the Trikuta Hills; identified as potentially vulnerable. This phased project is being executed as a long term measure to ensure against falling stones and landslides on the tracks to enhance the safety and security of the pilgrims.

The Slope Stabilization works have been undertaken through a consortium of M/s Geobrugg AG of Switzerland and M/s Pioneer Foundation Engineers of India while M/s THDCIL (a Public Sector Undertaking of Government of India and UP) has provided consultancy for the same. On the recommendations of THDCIL, IIT Kanpur had carried out the work of Topography Survey and IIT Roorkee had done the Geological Mapping and Slope Stability Studies for this Project.

The project involves use of very advanced technology for slope stabilisation measures. The methodology being utilised for protection, treatment and stabilisation of Trikuta Mountain slopes comprises interventions which involve highly sophisticated techniques like installation of 'High Energy Absorption Rockfall Barriers', 'High Tensile Strength Steel Wire-Mesh', 'Rolled Cable Net' and concrete work including shotcrete, cladding, drilling grouting, anchoring as well as other site specific treatments. Some of these technologies have been used for the first time in India. Besides, slope sanitization of precarious looking loose



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rocks, boulders etc is being done during pre-monsoon, post-monsoon and during snowfall seasons under expert supervision.

The slope stabilisation work has been completed at 5 of the most vulnerable sites at Adhkuwari and Himkoti Yatra Marg in the first phase at a cost of over Rs. 18 crore, as this is the most preferred track and majority of pilgrims opt for this track which has a smooth gradient and is very convenient and easy to trek on.

In the second phase, this work will be taken up on 7 more sites at an estimated cost of around Rs. 17.57 crore.



Slope Stabilisation work on Himkoti Marg

iv) Audio System

For ensuring better connectivity, reliable communication and for enhancing the ambience of pilgrims moving on the tracks, a hi-



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tech Multipurpose Audio System has been installed and made operational along entire track from Darshani Deodi to Bhawan. The Multipurpose Audio System was installed through M/s BOSE Corporation India Pvt. Ltd., on turnkey basis at a cost of Rs. 10 crore (including the operations and maintenance cost for five years).

The System is primarily being used for playing recorded spiritual music, pre-recorded general and medical advisories and emergency public announcements and is also useful for inter-linking of functioning of several important services (like CCTV, LAN, EPABX), besides making public announcements in the event of any emergency and disaster situations. In addition, the morning and evening Atka Aarti from Bhawan is also put on the Audio System for the benefit of pilgrims moving on the track. The system provides rich devotional music of high sound quality and generates a soothing ambience throughout the track. Special devotional music and other spiritual content based CDs have been got prepared which are regularly played on this system.

For making the Multipurpose Audio System functional, the Shrine Board had to lay about 25 km Optical Fibre Cable, create 46 air conditioned booths at various locations along the tracks and provide 1428 high quality BOSE speakers for providing a soothing, serene and quality sound output.



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Hi-Tech Multipurpose Audio System installed on the track



High quality speakers playing devotional content on the track



10. Projects Completed during the year

i) Temple Complex at Adhkuwari

On 08-04-2016 Governor N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Board (Hon'ble Governor), dedicated the Renovated Temple Complex and Yatri Facilities at Adhkuwari to the pilgrims. The Renovated Complex comprises the Temple and Yagyashalla with an area of 12000 sft; a 7200 sft Queue Complex and Waiting Hall on first floor for the safe and smooth flow of Yatris to perform darshan of the Holy Cave (Garbh Joon) at Adhkuwari. A 350 rft Queue Line with stainless steel railings has been constructed to streamline the movement of pilgrims; with Entry and Exit Gates having an area of 400 sft.

The complex also has about 675 sft open area around the Temple and a Waiting Area and platform of 16000 sft for the smooth movement of pilgrims. The entire project has been constructed at an expenditure of Rs. 2.28 crore.



Adhkuwari Temple Complex



Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Shrine Board dedicating Renovated Temple Complex at Adhkuwari to pilgrims on 08-04-2016

ii) **Mahadev Temple at Reasi**

Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Board (Hon'ble Governor) dedicated the Renovated Mahadev Temple Complex and Yatri Facilities to the people of Reasi on 08-04-2016. The Shrine Board had taken up the restoration work of this Temple and construction of facilities for the devotees. Besides restoration of the main Temple, a Yagyashalla, Langar Hall, Dormitory, Kitchen and Public Conveniences have been constructed in the complex at a cost of Rs. 1.70 crore. In addition to undertaking landscaping of the Temple Complex, shrubs and ornamental plants have been planted alongside the boundary wall and old trees have been scientifically pruned and reshaped to add to the aesthetics of the complex.



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Renovated Mahadev Temple Complex at Reasi



Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Shrine Board dedicated Renovated Mahadev Temple Complex and Yatra facilities to people at Reasi on 08-04-2016



iii) Staff Quarters at Himkoti

Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Board (Hon'ble Governor), inaugurated Shrine Board's Staff Colony at Himkoti which has been constructed to provide additional accommodation for the staff working on the Track. This 3-storey complex equipped with all modern facilities comprises 24 rooms (with kitchens); with 8 rooms on each floor and 14 bathrooms and toilet units in an adjoining building. The complex constructed at a cost of over Rs. 88 lakh has plinth area of 6500 sft while the bathroom/ toilet block is spread on 1200 sft. A separate approach path has been provided to the building.



Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Shrine Board inaugurating Staff Colony at Himkoti on 08-04-2016



Staff Quarters at Himkoti

iv) **Pony Stand at Bhawan**

Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Board (Hon'ble Governor), inaugurated a well designed Pony Stand in the Bhawan area. The 4- floor Pony Stand, built at a cost of Rs. 3.50 crore, shall provide halting facilities to 330 ponies. Shifting the ponies from the Track to this new Pony Stand will help in decongesting the track and ensuring easier movement of pilgrims; particularly during heavy rush. The Pony Stand has a separate duct for the sanitary disposal of mule dung and urine.

The Pony Shed has an area of 11000 sft with separate approach paths for each floor.



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Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Shrine Board inaugurating Pony Stand in the Bhawan area on 08-04-2016



Pony Stand in the Bhawan area



v) Police Post at Kakryal

Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Board (Hon'ble Governor), inaugurated the newly constructed Police Post at Kakryal, by the Shrine Board within a record time of less than three months at a cost of over Rs. 21 lakh. The Police Post, located on land owned by the Shrine Board, has been created to cater to the requirements of the several major institutions which have been established by the Shrine Board in Kakryal area, including Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, the Superspeciality Hospital and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing.



Police Post at Kakryal, Katra



Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Shrine Board inaugurating newly constructed Police Post at Kakryal on 28-03-2017

vi) **Shrine Board's Nursery at Kunia**

Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Board (Hon'ble Governor), inaugurated the hi-Tech Nursery established by the Shrine Board at Kunia, Panthal. This Nursery, with its various specialized components, has been established at an expenditure of over Rs. 4.27 crore to rear indigenous species of plants, compatible with the local climatic conditions, for greening the Trikuta Hills. The Governor inspected the different wings of the Nursery which include a Nature Interpretation Centre, an Automatic hi-Tech Mist Chamber, and a Naturally Ventilated Polygreen House. The Nursery has perennial source of water in the form of a spring which has been further complemented by



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creating 3 underground water storage tanks having a capacity of 1.40 lakh litres.



Shrine Board's Nursery at Kunia, Panthal



Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Board inaugurating hi-Tech Nursery at Kunia, Panthal on 28-03-2017



11. Up-coming facilities - New Track (Tarakote Marg)

Administrative Approval for wayside facilities along with Shelter Sheds on the upcoming Tarakote Track was granted by the Board in the year 2016-17. Accordingly, work has been taken up on the construction of various wayside facilities for the comfortable and pleasant on-foot movement of pilgrims on the upcoming Tarakote Marg between Banganga and Adhkuwari. The facilities being created include two Bhojanalayas, four View Points, two Medical Units, fifteen Water Points, Toilet Blocks, Power Supply, Shelter Sheds, Sanitation facilities, arrangements for safety and security of pilgrims, Hill Slope Stabilisation works, landscaping works, greening of the entire area etc. Besides, the entire track is being lit with 500 LED lights.



12. Major Institutions setup by the Board

Besides focussing on enlarging facilities for the pilgrims, side by side, the Board has been laying high priority towards taking up several projects under health and education sectors for the benefit of society at large. Towards attainment of this goal, the Shrine Board has set up Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul and more recently Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing. Besides setting up of adequate medical facilities for the pilgrims on the track and in the Bhawan area, the Shrine Board has established a Superspeciality Hospital at Kakryal for the benefit of the people of J&K and the neighbouring states.

i) Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University

The Board has set up Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University at Kakryal near Katra. It is an autonomous, technical and fully residential university which has witnessed remarkable growth over the past years since its establishment in 2004. The varsity has five faculties of study which include Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Management, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Nursing and Faculty of Humanities & Social Science, comprising 12 departments, offering a total of five undergraduate, 11 postgraduate and one integrated programme besides Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Research. The academic system, syllabi and evaluation procedure has been adopted from the Indian Institute of Technology which promotes vigorous learning and transparent evaluation



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mechanism. There is highly qualified faculty from various parts of the country guiding the students towards higher learning and research with focus on building highly qualified manpower with abundance of integrity and humaneness. Presently, there are nearly 1700 boys and girls from across the country pursuing education at this university.



A view of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University



Matrika Auditorium of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University



ii) **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital**

The Medical units of the Shrine Board are already available at Charan Paduka, Adhkuwari, Bhawan, Bhairon and Himkoti besides a full-fledged 25-bed hospital at Sanjichhat with ICU facility. These medical units are well equipped with basic medical infrastructure including doctors, para-medical staff, essential equipments and medicines and ICU (at select Medical Units).

In order to further augment the effectiveness of medical units; particularly to take care of the medical emergencies, the Board has stationed Ambulances alongwith drivers (in 24X7 mode) at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Himkoti and Banganga, so as to ensure that the critical patients are shifted to CHC/ SMVDNSH or other hospitals without any loss of time. In case of extreme medical emergencies the pilgrims are also airlifted to Katra/ SMVDNSH, Kakryal.

As a major healthcare initiative aimed at providing quality tertiary care at an affordable cost in the State of J&K, the Board has set up the 230-bed “Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH)” at Kakryal near Katra. This tertiary care Hospital being run in partnership with M/s Narayana Health (a leading Bangalore-based chain of Hospitals) became functional w.e.f. 08-04-2016 and was formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 19-04-2016.



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The SMVDNSH boasting of a sprawling campus, is offering tertiary healthcare services in diverse specialties of medicine and surgery through a trained and dedicated team of Consultants, Nurses and para-medical staff. The Hospital is fully equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipments for diagnosis and treatment (like Linear Accelerator, Brachytherapy, Gamma Camera, MRI, CT Scan, Cath Lab etc.). The hospital is also planning to soon have in place a hi- Tech PET CT facility. In addition, the commencement of Robotic Surgery and Organ Transplant (in a phased manner) is also under consideration by the Hospital. SMVDNSH, with its growing reputation of an excellent tertiary healthcare service provider, is attracting substantial footfall of patients from all corners of the state. The success of the Hospital is evident from the fact that through its various specialities, the Hospital was able to treat more than one lakh patients during the very first year of its operation. In the short span of its functioning SMVDNSH can claim to provide high standard medical care through its various specialized departments.

During the past one year, the Hospital has provided relief worth Rs 5.31 crore to the patients (in the shape of free OPD, concession on major surgeries and discount on OPD pharmacy). In addition, under its Medical Support Policy, the Shrine Board has also borne the expenditure worth Rs 2.91 crore for providing free treatment to pilgrims, inhabitants of nearby villages, the land owners (whose land was acquired for setting up of the



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SMVDNSH/SMVDU), employees of the Shrine Board, students of Shrine Board's Gurukul and Nursing College and general poor and needy patients (under Aarogaya Yojna; a component of Medical Support Policy).



Front view of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal



Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister, after inaugurating Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital at Kakryal on 19-04-2016



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Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister, accompanied by Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Shrine Board, inspecting the Hospital premises after its inauguration

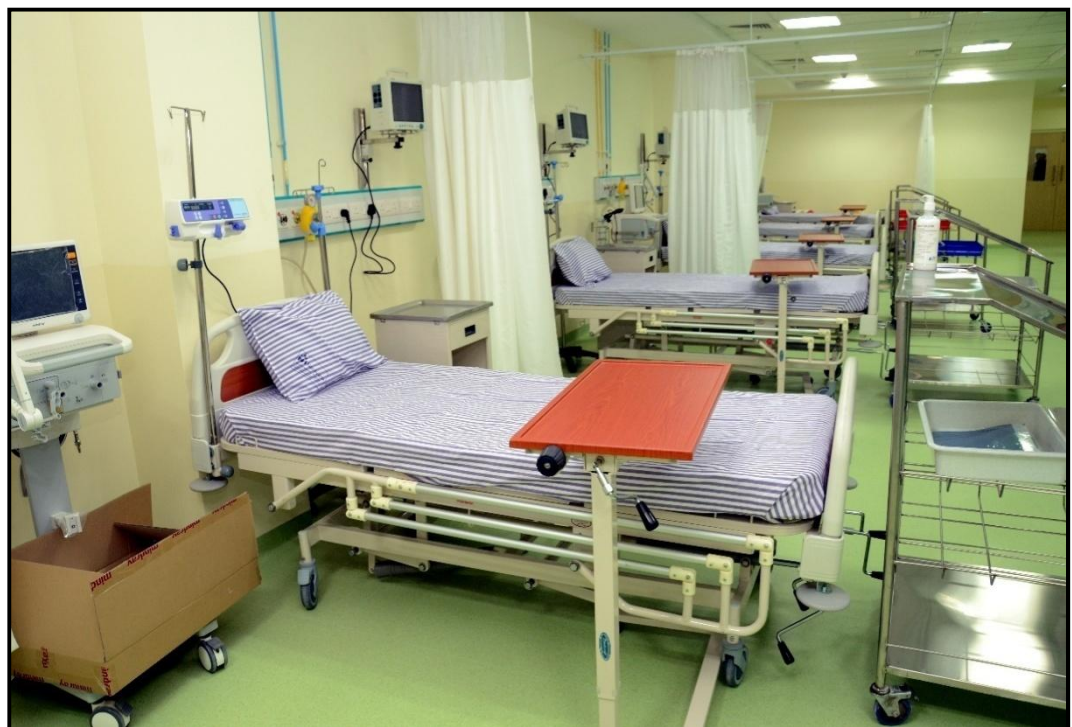




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State-of-the-art diagnostic equipment at Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal



A ward of Superspeciality Hospital, Kakryal



iii) Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing

Continuing with its endeavours for promotion of quality education in varied fields, the Shrine Board took another initiative and established the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (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 the highest standards to the students so that after passing out from this institution they serve society with utmost commitment and distinction.

The establishment of the Nursing College is yet another milestone in the development of Katra and its surroundings and testimony of Shrine Board's contribution to society.

The SMVDCoN is approved by the Indian Nursing Council and J&K State Nursing Council with an intake capacity of 100 students. The College which is following Semester and Credit Based system as per the latest guidelines of the UGC, is affiliated to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. The College besides having a highly qualified faculty, is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure like smart classrooms and WiFi connectivity, modern labs (including Nursing Foundation Lab, Nutrition Lab, Anatomy, Biochemistry & Microbiology Lab, etc.), a well stocked library, facility of on-line journals and a well furnished hostel for comfortable stay with facilities for hygienic



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food. For providing high quality clinical exposure and hands on training in various nursing traits the College is ably supported by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital infrastructure, leading to a better professional learning and grooming of College of Nursing students.

The classes for the first batch of 4-year B. Sc. Nursing course started in July 2016 while for the second batch the admission process is underway. Various processes of the college are fully automated. Web portal of the college for starting online admission process has been launched. The facility of online filling up of application forms has been provided to enable the students to apply from any part of the country thus saving them from having to travel to the college. Arrangements have also been made for giving immediate SMS/e-mail confirmation to the candidates in respect of filled up application forms.

Besides online applications, many other online modules are part of the web portal which include online attendance of students, online submission of assignments, registration of students, feedback and suggestions, e-resources, e-learning and video resources and other academic and administrative procedures to facilitate teaching-learning process.



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Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Kakryal, Katra



Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Shrine Board interacting with students during a visit to College of Nursing at Kakryal on 19-12-2016



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Students of College of Nursing, Kakryal in Labs





iv) Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul

With the objective of imparting Vedic and Sanskrit education and to produce adequately qualified and skilled professionals in the field of Sanskrit and religion the Board had set up fully residential Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul at Charan Paduka near Katra in 2010. The Gurukul is affiliated to Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi. For the start of Shastri classes it was decided to undertake the construction of Phase-II of the Gurukul. As on 31-03-2017, the stage-II works of Gurukul were in the advanced stage of completion. All other wherewithal and logistics have been put in place and Phase-II is likely to be ready for the benefit of students intending to pursue Shastri (Graduation) course.

The Gurukul has latest facilities and highly qualified faculty to impart education to the students in sync with the present and futuristic requirements. It has fully equipped class rooms, labs, library, Yagyashalla, Bhojanalaya, play ground and digital language lab. The students of the Gurukul are being provided education, boarding, lodging, uniforms, books etc entirely free of cost by the Shrine Board. The Board shall be providing free education to Shastri (graduation) students as well.



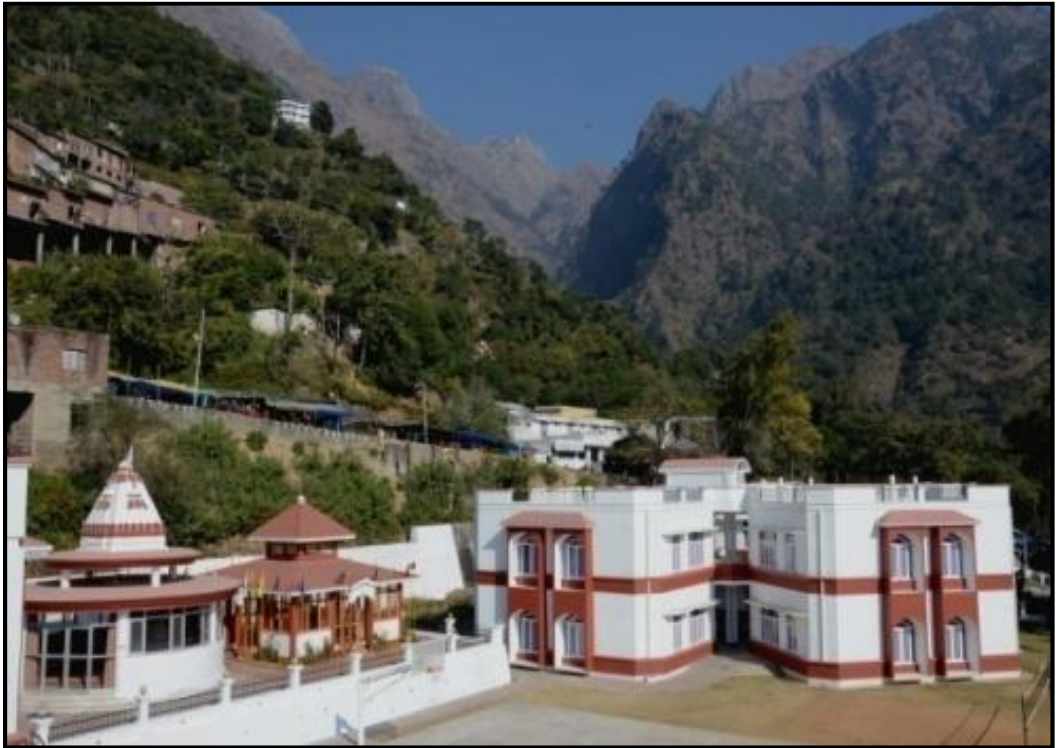
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The students of Gurukul have won laurels in academic and extra-curricular fields. From its 1st session (in 2012-13) students of class 8th have been continuously winning the prestigious Vakratund Shukul Swaran Padak (Gold Medal) which is awarded to the topper in the entire Sampurnanand Sanskrit University. The students are also participating in the State and National level extra-curricular activities such as Shastriya competitions and many of them, having won awards in various categories, have brought laurels to the Gurukul and the State. Chairman of the Shrine Board (Governor, J&K State) felicitated 8 outstanding and award winning students of the Gurukul at a function held in the Raj Bhavan by awarding them appreciation letters, commemorative coins and cash prizes.

The Board has also institutionalised two awards/medals for University toppers of Purva Madhyama (10th Class) and Uttar Madhyama (12th Class) known as "Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Swaran Padak" which are awarded to any student from any institution under the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya who becomes the University topper in these two classes. The said medals have been instituted by the University from the session 2016-17 onwards.



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Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra



Students in Language Lab of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul



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Students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul conducting a practical in Science Lab



Students of Gurukul in Computer Lab



v) Sports Complex

With a view to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities for promoting sports talent, the Shrine Board has set up a most modern and beautiful Sports Complex at Katra under its social support initiative.

Shrine Board's Sports Complex inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 19-04-2016 has been established at a cost of about Rs. 11 crore.

The Complex has a capacity for more than 10,000 spectators, including 2,600 in a covered pavilion.

The Sports Complex has a magnificent ground turfed with premium quality grass with sprinkler irrigation system for organising track and field events as well as team sports.

The Complex has a well equipped Gymnasium, a synthetic Lawn Tennis court, synthetic Basketball court and one Volleyball clay court. It also has indoor sports facilities for Table Tennis and Shooting.

Adequate parking facility has been made available for users and the visitors.

This Complex is also equipped with rain water harvesting capacity of one lakh litres to conserve the rain water. Solar water heaters have also been installed to save energy.



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To increase the green cover and enhance the aesthetics of the Sports Complex trees, ornamental plants and flowering creepers have been planted around the Stadium.

Besides increasing health consciousness and fitness among youth, students, employees of the Shrine Board and the visiting pilgrims, the Shrine Board's Sports Complex shall facilitate achieving excellence in the field of sports and games through specialized coaching and provision of equipment and aims to produce sportspersons of national and international repute.

With the setting up of this Complex, it is now possible to organize major State and National levels sports events at Katra.



A magnificent view of Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra



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Archers in action at Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra



Gym at Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra



13. And the efforts continue.....

The Shrine Board's management is committed to serve to visiting pilgrims in the best possible way. In order to meet the emerging requirements of the pilgrimage, the Shrine Board has been putting in enormous efforts to upgrade the pilgrim-facilities such as augmentation of water supply, health care facilities, catering facilities, various construction works, improved sanitation, appropriate Yatra regulation mechanisms etc. These pilgrim-oriented initiatives / efforts shall continue to be at the core of Shrine Board's activities in the future also. Provision of ultra-filtered drinking water, ropeway facility and construction of Durga Bhawan to provide free of cost on-floor accommodation to the pilgrims in Bhawan area are likely to come up soon for the benefit of the pilgrims.



Shri N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Chairman of the Shrine Board (Hon'ble Governor) inaugurating hi-tech Nursery at Kunia.





