



Ropeway Project to Vaishno Devi Shrine

Why in News?

Recently, a **shutdown was observed in Katra** to oppose a ropeway that **will connect Tarakote Marg to Sanji Chhat**, along the 12-kilometre steep track of the [Vaishno Devi shrine](#), in the Jammu region.

Key Points

- **Protest Against Ropeway Project:**
 - **The Vaishno Devi Trek Mazdoor Union**, voiced opposition to the **ropeway project**, stating it threatens the livelihood of over 60,000 families, including hoteliers, shopkeepers, pony operators, laborers, and transporters.
 - The **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti** called for a shutdown in Katra, which disrupted business in the local market.
 - **Withdrawal of Shutdown Call:**
 - The Samiti withdrew the shutdown after receiving fresh assurances from local authorities.
 - The Deputy Commissioner requested five days to analyze their demands, according to Samiti members.
- **Shrine Board Meeting Chaired by Lieutenant Governor:**
 - J&K [Lieutenant Governor](#) chaired the **73rd Meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at Raj Bhawan**.
 - The Lieutenant Governor inaugurated new **pilgrim-centric facilities** and **laid the foundation stone for a new exit track** aimed at decongesting the Bhawan area.
- **Board's Decisions and Future Plans:**
 - The **Shrine Board conducted** a comprehensive review of its previous decisions but did not issue a specific statement on the ongoing protests in Katra.
 - The Lieutenant Governor emphasized improving transparency and efficiency to enhance the pilgrim experience.
- **MoU to Address Landslides:**
 - The Board approved a tripartite **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the [Geological Survey of India \(GSI\)](#) and [THDC India Limited \(THDCIL\)](#).
 - The MoU **aims to identify and treat slopes vulnerable to landslides and rockfalls** along the Yatra route between Adhkuwari and Bhawan.

Vaishno Devi Temple

- The temple is **located at 5,200 feet in the Trikuta mountains**, sees over one crore visitors annually, with a **12 km trek from Katra**.
- **Key Landmarks:** Darshani Deodhi, Banganga, Chara Paduka, Indraprastha, Adhkuari, Garbha Joon, Himkoti, Haathi Matha, Sanji Chhat Bhavan, Sher ka Panja and Bhairon Mandir.

