



VARANASI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

18th February '2025



VDA Advances Redevelopment of Jawaharlal Nehru Commercial Center

A key meeting was held under the chairmanship of Shri Pulkit Garg, Vice Chairman of Varanasi Development Authority (VDA), to discuss the redevelopment of the Jawaharlal Nehru Commercial Center. The project, undertaken in collaboration with NBCC, aims to revamp the aging commercial hub.



Officials from NBCC, Property Section, Town Planning, and Additional Secretary's Office participated in discussions, focusing on identifying allottees, shopkeepers, and tenants. It was directed that a thorough survey be conducted to establish ownership details, including cases where original allottees or tenants have passed away or transferred ownership.

Additionally, the process of legalizing tenant transfers and establishing a policy for tenant regularization was emphasized. The redevelopment aims to modernize the commercial center while ensuring transparency in property records and occupancy.



VDA Reviews Weekly Progress of Zones 3, 4 & 5

Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, Secretary of Varanasi Development Authority (VDA), conducted a weekly review meeting (16.01.2025 – 31.01.2025) assessing the performance of Zone-3 (Dashaswamedh, Chetganj, Chowk, Kotwali), Zone-4 (Bhelupur, Nagwan), and Zone-5 (Ramnagar, Mughalsarai).

Discussions covered key areas such as mitigation map approvals, fee recovery, illegal plotting demolitions, action against unauthorized petrol/diesel/CNG stations, and top defaulters.



Performance Highlights:

- 35 mitigation maps approved: Zone-3 (11), Zone-4 (16), Zone-5 (8)
- ₹2.27 crore deposited in mitigation fees across the three zones

As Zone-5 fell short of its mitigation fee target, its Zonal Officer and Junior Engineer were directed to submit a show cause notice.

Officials, including Additional Secretary Parmanand Yadav and respective Zonal Officers, were present for the review.



VDA Reviews Zone-1 & Zone-2 Performance

Dr. Gudakesh Sharma, Additional Secretary of Varanasi Development Authority (VDA), chaired a review meeting to assess pending mitigation maps, compounding fee collection, and enforcement actions in Zone-1 (Shivpur, Sikraul, Vinash) and Zone-2 (Sarnath, Adampur, Jaitpura, Vinash).

Key Financial Updates:

Zone-1: ₹12.66 lakh collected (26.01.2025 – 31.01.2025), bringing the total to ₹9.78 crore for FY 2024-25.



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Key Financial Updates:

Zone-1: ₹12.66 lakh collected (26.01.2025 – 31.01.2025), bringing the total to ₹9.78 crore for FY 2024-25.

Zone-2: ₹13.53 lakh collected (26.01.2025 – 31.01.2025), totaling ₹6.63 crore for FY 2024-25.

Directives Issued:

Strict enforcement against builders with pending compounding fees.



VDA Installs Retro-Reflective Boards for Enhanced Navigation

Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) has begun installing retro-reflective boards on major routes following boundary expansion. Out of 5 planned boards, 2 have already been installed at:

- Bhadohi Road (6X100 feet)
- Prayagraj Road (6X120 feet)

Foundation work is completed for the remaining boards at:

- Chandauli Road
- Mirzapur Road
- Balua Ghat Road



These boards display “Welcome to Varanasi Development Authority Area” at entry points and “Thank you for visiting” at exit points. Additionally, they provide distance markers to key locations like Cantt Railway Station, Vishwanath Temple, Airport, Sarnath, and major cities including Lucknow, Delhi, and Prayagraj.

This initiative aims to assist visitors with better navigation and improve accessibility to Varanasi’s key destinations.



VDA Installs 25 Sculptures to Enhance Varanasi's Aesthetic Appeal

Varanasi Development Authority (VDA), in collaboration with Railway Board, North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), and Banaras Rail Engine Factory (BLW), has crafted 61 artistic statues to beautify the city.

25 sculptures have already been installed at key locations, with landscaping, plantation, attractive lighting, and signage planned for each site.

These statues serve a dual purpose—enhancing the city's aesthetic charm while showcasing Varanasi's rich cultural heritage. This initiative is a step towards preserving and promoting the city's historical and artistic identity.



IIT BHU Conducts Site Inspection for Soap Pit Construction in Ramnagar Housing Scheme

To prevent sewage discharge into the Ganga River, IIT BHU conducted a technical site inspection on 25.01.2025 for the construction of soap pits in Ramnagar Housing Scheme.

Background:

- Sewage from 400 buildings was flowing into the Ganga via Ghurha Nala, leading to a petition in NGT.
- Hon'ble NGT ordered an action plan to resolve the issue.
- VDA proposed soap pits to manage sewage from septic tanks, ensuring zero pollution risk in the future.

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VDA Reviews Pending Mitigation Maps & Fee Recovery in Zone-1 & Zone-2

A review meeting, chaired by Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma, was held at VDA auditorium to assess pending mitigation maps, compounding fee recovery, and enforcement actions in Zone-1 & Zone-2.

Key Financial Updates:

- **Zone-1** (Shivpur, Sikraul, Vinash): ₹3,94,677 collected (12.01.2025 - 18.01.2025); FY 2024-25 total: ₹7,36,25,181.
- **Zone-2** (Sarnath, Adampur, Jaitpura, Vinash): ₹23,99,731 collected (12.01.2025 - 18.01.2025); FY 2024-25 total: ₹6,63,23,831.



Enforcement & Compliance Directives:

- Strict action against builders with pending compounding fees.
- Sealed cases to be investigated & basements to be cleared for parking.
- Public complaints on IGRS to be resolved within one week.
- Illegal constructions & unplanned developments to face immediate demolition.

Warning Issued: Officers were directed to ensure strict compliance or face action for negligence. Attendees included Zonal Officers Shivaji Mishra (Zone-1) & Sanjeev Kumar (Zone-2), Junior Engineers, and field personnel.



VDA Reviews Solar Plant Registrations Under PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme

A review meeting, chaired by Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg, was held to assess the progress of solar plant registrations under the PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme for regular, contractual, and pensioner employees of VDA residing in Varanasi city.

Key Highlights:

- Registration camps for solar installations have been running at VDA premises since 16.01.2025.
- A progress review meeting is scheduled for 18.01.2025 at 5:00 PM.
- Section heads must present updated registration data and explain reasons for non-registration of eligible employees.



The initiative aims to promote clean energy adoption and provide electricity bill savings for VDA employees.

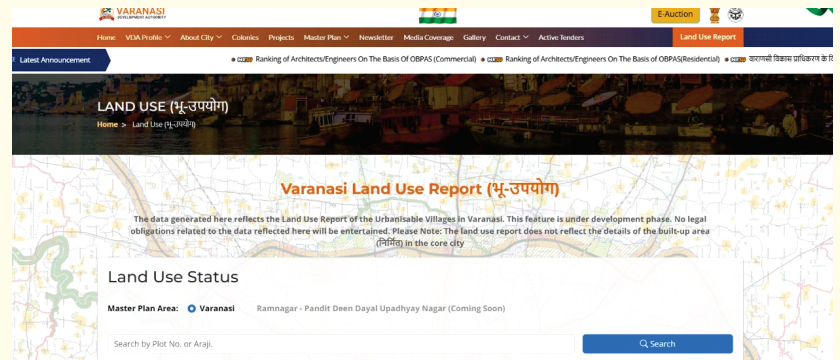


VDA's Land Use Portal Gains Statewide Recognition

The Land Use Portal developed by Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) received high praise during a meeting chaired by the Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Planning Department, Uttar Pradesh at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Bhawan.

Key Highlights:

- The portal has benefited over 10,000 people so far.
- Decision taken to expand the portal across Uttar Pradesh for easy access to land use information.
- Recognized for enhancing transparency and convenience in urban planning.
- IT Expert Dinesh Singh (VDA) explained the technical aspects & effectiveness of the system.



This initiative positions VDA as a leader in digital governance & urban planning.



VDA Vice Chairman Inspects Key Development Works

VDA Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg conducted a site inspection of Central Jail Road, reviewing progress on paver block footpaths, parking, vending zones, and other ongoing projects. He directed that all works be completed within a week, warning of penalty action for delays.



Additionally, he inspected the median plantation work from Atulanand Square to Harhua, emphasizing the need for enhanced greenery and beautification. The Varanasi Development Authority is committed to timely completion of these projects to improve urban infrastructure and environmental aesthetics.



VDA Plans State-of-the-Art Transport Nagar Development

Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) held a crucial meeting on the development of the Transport Nagar Scheme, chaired by Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg. Experts from IIT BHU participated to discuss the implementation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP), Fire Fighting Tanks, ETP, Overhead Tanks (OHT), Rainwater Recharging Systems, and Underground Electric Wiring.



The project aims to establish world-class infrastructure, ensuring water conservation, fire safety, and eco-friendly sewage management. The scheme will also feature modern underground power supply to enhance safety and aesthetics.

Key attendees included Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, Additional Secretary Gudakesh Sharma, Town Planner Prabhat Kumar, and IIT BHU Professors Bind Kumar and Prabhat Kumar. The Vice Chairman emphasized that Transport Nagar will serve as a key hub for industrial and economic activities in Varanasi, integrating cutting-edge technology and sustainable development



VDA Cracks Down on Delays, Calls for Speedy Action in Zones 3, 4 & 5

A review meeting of field workers from Zone-3, 4, and 5 was held under the chairmanship of VDA Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, focusing on pending mitigation maps, outstanding fees, and illegal constructions.

The Secretary ordered immediate action on the following:

- Clear pending maps and ensure swift fee collection.
- Investigate sealed cases and enforce parking regulations.
- Demolish unplanned developments and illegal plots.
- Ensure quality resolution of public complaints to avoid negative IGRS feedback.

Strict warnings were issued against negligence, with absent officers directed to submit explanations. Field staff were also instructed to carry ID cards, official bags, and maintain records of Vice Chairman's instructions.

The Secretary expressed serious dissatisfaction over lapses and warned of strict action against any negligence. Additional Secretary Parmanand Yadav and other officials attended the meeting



VDA Cracks Down on Illegal Construction & Unauthorized Plotting

Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) intensified its enforcement drive, sealing multiple illegal constructions and demolishing unauthorized plotting across Zones 2, 4, and 5 under the UP Town Planning and Development Act-1973.

Sealing Actions

Zone-2 (Sarnath) – Sealed a fourth-floor illegal extension above an existing S+3 structure on a 500 sq.m. plot by Rajat Singh & Vivek Singh.



Zone-4 (Nagwan & Bhelupur) – Sealed three major illegal constructions:

- A G+3 structure (2,000 sq. ft.) in Kandwa.
- A ground-floor structure (1,500 sq. ft.) under high-tension wires in Kanchanpur.
- A B+G+3 building in Tulsipur, Seal Nagar Colony.

Demolition Actions

Zone-5 (Ramnagar) – 5 bighas of unauthorized plotting by Satish & Kartik Singh in Mauja-Bakhra demolished on 07.02.2025.

Zone-4 (Nagwan) – 7 bighas of illegal plotting in Pahadi, Yadav Basti demolished on 13.02.2025.

VDA warns: Strict action will continue against unapproved constructions and layouts. Citizens are urged to obtain proper approvals before undertaking any construction.

IMPORTANT ADVISORY: Varanasi Development Authority VDA urges all the citizens of Varanasi to refrain from buying or selling properties with illegal constructions or plotting. All citizens are also advised to secure mandatory map approvals before any construction activity to avoid engaging in illegal construction practices.

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With love and excitement!

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VARANASI**