



VARANASI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

16th July '2025



VDA Goes Big on Green: 3,630 Trees Planted Across the City

Varanasi Development Authority has outdone itself in its latest green initiative. On July 9, VDA surpassed its 3,600-tree target by planting 3,630 saplings across multiple city sites—part of the District Tree Plantation Committee's campaign. Spearheaded by Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra and Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma,



the plantation drive was executed under the guidance of Vice Chairman Shri Pulkit Garg.

The biggest contribution came from Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Park with 1,850 plants, followed by 560 at acquired land in Sikraul and 430 at Sant Ravidas IAS/PCS Hostel. A variety of ornamental, medicinal, and shade-giving species like Amaltas, Mahogany, Jamun, and Kadamba were included, giving a major aesthetic and ecological boost to the city.



Kashi-Sarnath Action Plan: VDA Maps Out 18-Point Facelift

To bring a fresh sheen to the sacred stretch between the airport and Godaulia, the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) is going full throttle under the Kashi-Sarnath Action Plan. In a high-level meeting chaired by Vice Chairman Shri Pulkit Garg, departments laid out a coordinated roadmap to revamp 18 major locations: Gilt Bazaar, Bhojubir, Circuit House, Kachhari, Police Line, Chowkaghat, Teliyabagh, Lahurabir, Kabir Math, Maidagin, Kaal Bhairav, Godaulia, along with key stretches connecting to the airport via Maidagin.



From themed facade painting and cleaner signage to pole painting and tangle-free internet wires, every detail is getting attention. The plan includes redesigned stalls, standardized food kiosks, smart urinals, and even strategic bollards to keep unruly traffic at bay. VDA, the Municipal Corporation, DUDA, traffic police, and food safety teams are all on the job.



Ravidas Ghat to Get Disability-Friendly Ramp

Getting to the river shouldn't be an uphill battle—literally. That's why the Varanasi Development Authority has greenlit a ₹50 lakh ramp project at Ravidas Ghat to improve accessibility for Divyangjan. With funding approved under the Infrastructure Fund, the 150-meter-long ramp will bridge the 10-meter elevation between the ghat and the river, following universal accessibility norms with a 1:12 slope.

The ramp is expected to significantly ease access to boats, cruise services, and Ganga



darshan activities—especially at a ghat that sees heavy daily footfall. E-tenders will be invited soon, with construction to follow per accessibility and safety guidelines.



VDA VC Takes Stock of Key City Sites

VDA Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg hit the ground for a detailed inspection of three important Varanasi locations—Neechibagh Commercial Scheme, Chittaranjan Park, and Dashashwamedh Plaza—issuing fresh directives to tighten execution and upkeep.

At Neechibagh, Garg checked on the auction status of the former Bata showroom, previously cancelled due to rent default. He instructed officers to ensure smooth auction proceedings.



At Chittaranjan Park, he called for completion of all works—including shaded benches and plantation—before the upcoming Shravan month, emphasizing quality and timeliness.

At Dashashwamedh Plaza, the Vice Chairman reviewed the new metal mesh designed to deter monkeys and pushed for round-the-clock cleanliness. He also ordered aesthetic and uniform signage for shops and warned against unauthorized stalls. The visit wrapped with a check on the ongoing ropeway project near Godaulia.



VDA Reviews Zone Progress, Pushes for Faster Map Approvals

On June 26, VDA Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra chaired a progress review meeting for Zone-3 (Dashashwamedh, Chetganj, Chowk, Kotwali), Zone-4 (Bhelupur, Nagwan), and Zone-5 (Ramnagar, Mughalsarai). The review covered works from June 11 to June 25, with officials assessing mitigation map approvals, fee recoveries, and actions against unauthorised developments.

Zone-3 led with 8 approved mitigation maps, followed by Zone-5 with 4 and Zone-4 with 2, totalling 14 approvals. Mitigation fee collection



across all three zones hit ₹61.84 lakh during the review period.

However, the Secretary expressed concern over the underperformance against financial targets and instructed all Zonal Officers to expedite the resolution of pending files and boost approval volumes. Strict attention was also directed toward tackling unauthorised petrol stations and illegal plotting activities.



Kashi's Cultural Path Set in Motion on Cariappa Marg

Uttar Pradesh State Minister Ravindra Jaiswal laid the foundation stone for a 500-meter-long “**Cultural Path**” along Cariappa Marg—from JHV Mall to Victory Bridge—on Wednesday. Spearheaded jointly by the Varanasi Development Authority and the Cantonment Board, the project aims to blend Kashi's spiritual soul with its artisanal heritage.

The path will showcase traditional Banarasi crafts like wooden toys, pink meenakari, and textile artistry through sculptures made from



scrap. Designed as a tourist-friendly zone, it will feature a 2.5-meter-wide footpath, themed lighting, seating, tourist info signage, selfie points, and parking.

Minister Jaiswal noted the initiative would both preserve Banaras's heritage and create livelihood avenues for artisans. With a tight deadline in place, the VDA plans to transform this stretch into a vibrant corridor connecting culture, tourism, and local pride.



Zone-1 Review: ₹10.8 Lakh Mitigation Fee Collected, Focus Tightens on Enforcement

In a review meeting led by VDA Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma, the performance of Zone-1 (Shivpur, Sikraul, and Vinash) was scrutinized with a focus on mitigation map approvals, fee recovery, and enforcement. Between June 16 and June 22, Zone-1 collected ₹10,80,391 in mitigation fees, pushing the total for FY 2025-26 to ₹1.81 crore so far.

The Zonal Officer was directed to expedite the clearance of pending mitigation files and crack down on builders who have defaulted



on their dues. Instructions were also issued to clear sealed sites, ensure basement parking, and address public complaints within a week. Unplanned development and illegal plotting were flagged for immediate demolition action. Officers were reminded to maintain strict accountability in all assigned duties.



VDA Cracks Down on Payment Defaulters in Property Section Review

In a review meeting held on July 4, VDA Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra laid out strict directives to streamline the property section's functioning. Immediate registration was ordered for allottees who've paid in full, while defaulters were instructed to be served notices promptly.

For tenants defaulting on rent or keeping shops closed, the Secretary instructed officials to vacate and repossess the properties, initiating the auction process without delay. He also emphasized proactive reminders for upcoming dues to prevent defaults. The meeting was attended by the Property Officer, Assistant Property Officer, and relevant desk staff.





Kashi's Culture Gets a Facelift at Maidagin and Kal Bhairav Marg

As part of VDA's push to blend aesthetics with spiritual identity, Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg inspected ongoing beautification work at Maidagin Chauraha and Kal Bhairav Marg on June 30. The busy intersection at Maidagin is being redesigned with greenery, pathways, iron railings, and elements of Kashi's traditional art and architecture.

Meanwhile, the Kal Bhairav Mandir road is getting a spiritual makeover—murals and religious motifs are being added, and a sound system will play "Om" chants along the route

to elevate the devotional vibe. The Vice Chairman emphasized that Kashi's essence lies in its culture and that modernization should only enhance, not alter, its identity.

The project also includes better traffic management and active public engagement to ensure the spiritual and aesthetic revival is rooted in community consensus.



Udyan Parikshan Karyashala': VDA Hosts Workshop on Gardening & Organic Fertilizers

On June 30, 2025, Varanasi Development Authority hosted Udyan Parikshan Karyashala at Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Garden, Padav. Organized under the guidance of Vice Chairman Shri Pulkit Garg, the workshop aimed to educate plant enthusiasts on modern gardening techniques and organic fertilizer production.

Garden expert Gaurav demonstrated how to create compost from garden leaves and kitchen waste, and introduced vermicomposting, emphasizing earthworms'



role in boosting soil fertility. He also explained the "Rice First" method using husk to maintain soil temperature and moisture. Tips on potting mix ratios and reusing broken pots added practical value.

The initiative drew active participation from plant lovers across the city, all encouraged to bring more greenery home. Tourism Officer Nitin Dwivedi, Garden In-charge Arvind Sharma, and Zonal Officer Gaurav Prakash Singh were present during the event.



Zone-wise Crackdown: VDA Seals & Demolishes Illegal Constructions



Zone-1 | Demolition in Sikraul Over Illegal 2-Acre Build

On July 7, VDA demolished a structure built across 2 acres in Mauja-Sikraul after the builder ignored prior sealing and continued construction. Action was taken by Zone-1 officials.



Zone-2 | Two Illegal Plotting Sites Demolished in Sarnath

On July 8, unauthorized plotting on two 6,000 sq.m. sites in Gaurakala and Sandha Mudhli was demolished due to missing layout approvals. Enforcement was led by Zone-2's team.



Zone-3 | 5 Sites Sealed in Manduadih-Mahmoorganj

On July 8, VDA sealed five unauthorized commercial and residential buildings, including hotels and multi-storey structures, in Manduadih and Mahmoorganj. Action was led by Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra and Zone-3 officials.



Zone-4 | Unauthorized Duplex & Residential Units Sealed in Nagwa

On July 9, two construction sites in Ward Nagwa were sealed for building duplexes and ground-floor units without VDA-approved maps. Zonal Officer Sanjeev Kumar supervised the action.

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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