



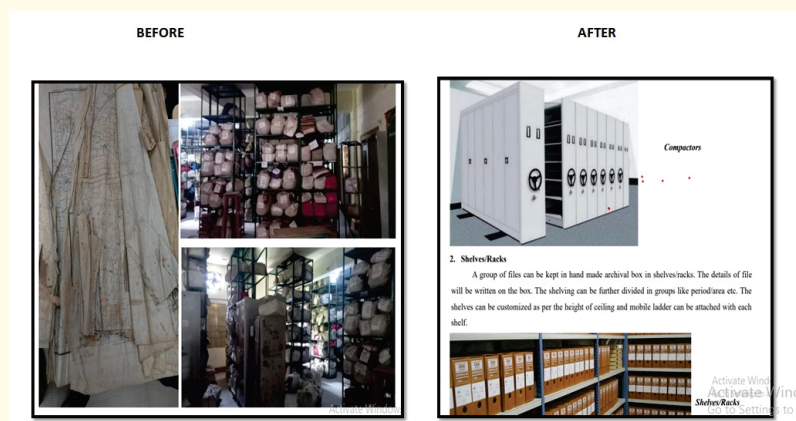
# VARANASI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

15th May '2025



## Preserving Varanasi's Urban Legacy

In a bid to safeguard decades-old urban planning records, the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) has partnered with INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) to preserve critical files and maps, some dating back to pre-1950.



Led by INTACH Director Dharmendra Mishra, the initiative includes a comprehensive survey and physical preservation of documents stored in VDA's record room. A key feature of the plan is staff training for improved archival practices and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to protect against termites and mold—ensuring long-term preservation in an environmentally friendly way.

Financial and administrative approvals are underway, and VDA expects the preservation work to begin soon, marking a proactive step in protecting Varanasi's administrative and cultural history.





### Zone Performance Under Scrutiny: VDA Secretary Reviews Monthly Progress

On May 5, VDA Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra chaired a review meeting assessing the April 2025 performance of Zone-3 (Dashaswamedh, Chetganj, Chowk, Kotwali), Zone-4 (Bhelupur, Nagwan), and Zone-5 (Ramnagar, Mughalsarai).

Key agenda items included updates on mitigation map approvals, mitigation fee collections, complaint redressal, demolition of illegal plot developments, and actions against unauthorized fuel stations. A total of 16 mitigation maps were approved across



the three zones, bringing in ₹3.11 crore in fees—though below target.

Frustrated with underperformance, the Secretary ordered explanations from Zone-3 officials and froze May salaries for Zone-5's Junior Engineer and field staff. All zones were instructed to expedite resolution of pending files and ramp up enforcement efforts.



### VDA Vice Chairman Inspects Deendayal Upadhyay Smriti Sthal, Pushes for Beautification

Vice Chairman of the Varanasi Development Authority, Shri Pulkit Garg, conducted an inspection of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Smriti Sthal in Padav on May 1, aiming to enhance the site's aesthetics and visitor experience.

**During the visit, he reviewed daily footfall and ticketing operations, while issuing clear directives to ramp up the park's appeal:**

- Expand the nursery area and ensure proper signage for each plant species.





- Implement a routine for maintenance and cleanliness.
- Install CCTV cameras to bolster site security.

Tourism Officer and Junior Engineer from the Ramnagar-Mughalsarai zone accompanied the inspection. These steps mark a continued push by VDA to elevate public spaces into well-maintained, tourist-friendly destinations.



### **VDA Secretary Reviews Park Upgradation Works in Ashok Vihar and Mahadev Nagar**

On May 5, Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, Secretary of the Varanasi Development Authority, inspected ongoing upgradation works at Ashok Vihar Colony Parks (Block-A and B) and Mahadev Nagar Colony Park.

The inspection covered key improvements such as:

Installation of modern lighting  
Brickwork, plastering, and painting  
Interlocking pathways  
Horticulture enhancements  
Boring for water access  
Installation of benches and swings



Dr. Mishra also engaged with local residents, listened to their feedback, and emphasized the timely and high-quality completion of the works. Executive Engineer Arvind Sharma was present to guide and assess the on-site progress.



### **From Parks to Ponds: VDA's Dual Focus on Urban Renewal**

Ashok Vihar & Mahadev Nagar: On May 5, VDA Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra reviewed upgradation efforts across Ashok Vihar Colony Parks (Block-A & B) and Mahadev Nagar Colony Park. The inspection spotlighted enhancements including lighting installation, plaster and paintwork, interlocking paths, horticulture, boring for water, and new seating and play structures. Local residents shared feedback, and Dr. Mishra urged quality-focused, on-schedule completion. Executive Engineer Arvind Sharma led the technical review on site.



Undi Tal, Sarnath: Meanwhile, on May 2, Vice Chairman Shri Pulkit Garg inspected Undi Tal's redevelopment in Sarnath. The consulting team from "Planner India" presented layout proposals, which the Vice Chairman reviewed and recommended adjustments to—especially concerning ecological zones and water channel accuracy. A detailed site survey has been ordered to better manage inlet and outlet flows for effective water conservation.



### **IGRS Red Flags: VDA Demands Accountability on Complaint Disposal**

On May 1, Varanasi Development Authority's Additional Secretary and IGRS In-charge, Parmanand Yadav, chaired a review meeting focused on the timely and effective disposal of IGRS (Integrated Grievance Redressal System) references. Attended by Section Officers, Zonal Officers, and field staff, the meeting zeroed in on delays and deficiencies in complaint resolution.



#### **Key instructions included:**

- Disposal reports must be submitted seven days prior to the due date.
- Field investigation photos are mandatory with the report.
- Complainant interaction must be documented in detail.

Disciplinary heat followed: A flawed disposal report from the property section led to a re-investigation order and notice to the officer-in-charge. Zone-1's Zonal Officer received a show-cause notice for delay in eight cases. Similarly, a misleading report by Zone-3's Junior Engineer prompted a three-day explanation deadline.





### **VDA Zonal Review: Focus on Faster Mitigation and Crackdown on Defaulters**

A review meeting of Zone-1 and Zone-2 was chaired by Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma at the Varanasi Development Authority auditorium. The session emphasized faster clearance of pending mitigation maps and stronger enforcement against fee defaulters.



#### **Key updates:**

- From April 21-27, Zone-1 deposited ₹2.6 lakh, raising its FY 2024-25 total to ₹12.25 crore.
- Zone-2 deposited ₹12.84 lakh in the same period, with a cumulative FY tally of ₹8.82 crore.

#### **The meeting directed Zonal Officers to:**

- Take legal action against builders who haven't paid compounding fees.
- Clear basements for parking and inspect sealed cases.
- Act swiftly on unauthorized developments and illegal plotting.

Dr. Sharma issued a strict warning: Any negligence in assigned tasks will attract adverse action. Officials from both zones were present during the review.



### **Ganjari Stadium: VDA Reviews Plans for Multi-Storey Parking and Traffic Flow**

On April 29, 2025, VDA Vice Chairman Shri Pulkit Garg chaired a high-level meeting to plan for multi-storey parking and traffic management around the upcoming International Cricket Stadium in Ganjari, situated along Varanasi Ring Road. The meeting focused on streamlining vehicle flow during large events and identifying appropriate parking zones. Key points included land marking, exploring potential parking areas, and determining alternate traffic routes to minimize congestion and ensure public convenience.





Officials from the Public Works Department, ADM (Protocol), ADCP (Traffic), SDM Rajatalab, and other stakeholders participated in detailed discussions. VDA Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma and Town Planner Prabhat Kumar were also present. The Vice Chairman emphasized timely action and coordinated planning to ensure seamless execution ahead of the stadium's operational timeline.



### **Sculptural Showcase Coming to Cantt Station**

On April 28, 2025, VDA Vice Chairman Shri Pulkit Garg and Station Director Arpit Gupta conducted a joint inspection of Varanasi Cantt Railway Station to evaluate proposed sites for sculpture installations by the Varanasi Development Authority.

The walkthrough covered areas near Platforms 4-5, 9, 10-11, Entry Gate-1, and inside the ticketing hall. Sculptures proposed



include cultural icons such as Kirti Stambh, Standing Nandi, V for Varanasi, and a Stupa, aimed at enhancing the visual identity and cultural ambiance of the station.

The initiative is part of VDA's broader plan to blend public infrastructure with the heritage character of the city.



### **Crackdown on Defaulters: VDA Pushes for Recovery and Registrations**

A focused review meeting was chaired by Varanasi Development Authority Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra on April 26, 2025, to assess recovery progress from defaulters and rental dues. The meeting spotlighted 20 top defaulters from various housing and commercial schemes.

Key schemes under review included Lalpur Residential Scheme, Devki Nandan Haveli,





Ashok Bihar, Badi Gaibi, Pichas Mochan, Shastri Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Vinayak Nagar, Ganga Nagar, Pandeypur, Ramnagar Residential Scheme, and Sanjay Gandhi Nagar. Each scheme's defaulter list and property rental records (via RMS portal) were scrutinized.

Strict directives were issued: All major defaulters must settle dues within three days, failing which property cancellations will be initiated. This warning aims to fast-track long-pending recoveries and bring non-compliant allottees to account.

In the context of Nadesar Meat Market, the Property Officer Anand Prakash Tiwari, Assistant Property Officer Ramesh Dubey, and desk assistants were tasked with contacting previous allottees, collecting outstanding payments, and ensuring completion of the registration process within the same three-day timeframe.

This action-oriented meeting reflects VDA's sharper focus on accountability and financial discipline across its schemes.



### Crackdown on Unauthorized Constructions Across Zones

**Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) has intensified action against illegal constructions and plotting in multiple zones:**

**Zone-1:** Following inspections along the ring road from Bhojibir, VDA flagged 7 unauthorized residential and commercial sites. Zonal teams have been instructed to seal ongoing constructions that exceed approved limits and ensure compliance within a 7-day deadline.

**Zone-2:** In Ward-Sarnath, Abhishek Maurya's 700 sqm (G+2) construction in Ramdattpur's Om Nagar Colony was sealed on May 7. In another action, illegal plotting spread across 3 bighas in Singhpur's Arihant Nagar Colony was demolished on May 3. Both actions were taken under the UP-Town Planning and Development Act, 1973.



**Zone-4:** A basement structure constructed on acquired land in Ravindrapuri Colony by Shoaib Ansari and others was demolished on May 8. The land, part of the Bhelupur Housing Scheme, had been previously denied construction permission due to existing acquisition and floodline restrictions.



These operations reflect VDA's continued enforcement drive to maintain planned urban development and curb unauthorized expansion.



**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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VARANASI**