



# VARANASI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

27th June 2025



## Assi River Restoration Gets a Major Push

In a bid to revive the Assi River, a key water body in Varanasi, a high-level meeting was convened on June 20 under the chairmanship of District Magistrate, Varanasi. Moderated by VDA Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg, the session brought together officials from VDA, IIT-BHU, Municipal Corporation, Jal Nigam, Pollution Control Board, and other line departments.

### Here's what's planned:

- **MoU signed:** VDA and IIT-BHU have joined hands for a detailed restoration blueprint.
- **Technical presentation:** IIT-BHU showcased a comprehensive plan covering an 8 km stretch of the river and 6 surrounding ponds.
- **Catchment focus:** The 160 km Pelikho channel, flowing through Varanasi, Bhadohi, and Prayagraj, will be studied for connectivity potential.





#### ● Action steps:

- Revised DPR to be prepped by Irrigation Dept.
- Jal Nigam to explore linking STP-treated water to the Assi.
- Revenue Dept to verify land ownership data.
- Municipal Corp to scale up desilting, anti-littering awareness, and waste removal campaigns.

With collaborative efforts from all departments, Varanasi's once vibrant Assi River might just be on the brink of a clean-water comeback.



#### VDA Install Retro Reflective Boards

The Varanasi Development Authority is marking its expanded boundaries with new retro reflective boards across key city entry points. Boards have already been installed on Bhadohi Road (6x100 ft), Prayagraj Road (6x120 ft), Chandauli Road (6x120 ft), and Mirzapur Road (6x100 ft), each displaying messages that welcome travelers into the VDA area and thank them upon exit. Previously installed signs on Chunar and Sindhaura roads have been relocated, while foundation work is underway for upcoming installations on Babatpur and Azamgarh roads. It's a simple yet strategic upgrade in city branding and navigation.



#### Health insurance awareness camp

In an effort to boost financial literacy and employee well-being, the Varanasi Development Authority hosted a health insurance awareness camp on June 20 at its auditorium. Conducted by Khushbu Pandey, Unit Manager at Aditya Birla Health Insurance, the session broke down the basics of health coverage—from benefits to enrollment. The workshop featured a live demo of schemes, quick query resolution, and even on-the-spot policy sign-ups. Officers and staff from across departments participated enthusiastically, walking away better informed and more confident about protecting their health and wallets.







**On the International Yoga Day,  
a yoga training program was  
organized by Varanasi  
Development Authority**

On June 21, Varanasi Development Authority marked International Yoga Day with a morning yoga session from 6:00 to 7:00 am on its premises. Presided over by Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma, the event featured Yogacharya Shikha Sharma, who led participants through asanas and Pranayama techniques. She emphasized the transformative power of breath control—not just for physical health but for mental clarity and emotional balance. Staff from across departments joined in, embracing the spirit of holistic well-being through yoga.



**Clearing the Way from  
Phoolwaria Tiraha to Central  
Jail Road**

On June 4, Varanasi Development Authority, under the directive of Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg, launched a coordinated drive to remove roadside encroachments from Phoolwaria Tiraha to Central Jail Road. The crackdown targeted handcarts and vendors operating outside the vending zones, with several challans issued for illegal setups and roadside parking. The joint effort—led by Additional Secretary Gudakesh Sharma with support from Varanasi Traffic Police and Municipal Corporation—aims to restore order and improve traffic flow. Locals welcomed the cleanup, which VDA promises to continue as a regular enforcement measure.







### VDA Pushes for Faster Civic Upgrades

In a review meeting held on June 11, VDA Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra called for swift improvements across multiple ongoing projects. The meeting focused on progress under the Pro-Poor project, electrical repairs, and park development in various colonies. Dr. Mishra directed immediate action on lighting and pole repairs, expressed dissatisfaction with slow progress in several colonies—including Ashok Nagar, Mahadev Nagar, and Patrakarpuram—and urged the team to expedite beautification work in Sindhu Nagar, Manas Nagar, and others. With a key infrastructure fund meeting lined up, VDA is pushing hard to get its civic upgrades on track.



### VDA Marks World Environment Day & Ganga Dussehra with Plantation Drive

On June 5, 2025, Varanasi Development Authority led a plantation program at Pandit Deendayal Smriti Park to celebrate World Environment Day and Ganga Dussehra. Around 50 saplings—including Chitvan, Savani, Mahogany, Jagrupa, and Gulchin Champa—were planted under the guidance of Authority Board Member Ambrish Singh “Bhola”, Garden In-charge Arvind Kumar Sharma, and Zonal Officer Gaurav Kumar Prakash from Zone 5. The VDA Employees Union also participated by planting more trees and distributing saplings to the public.







## VDA Reviews Zone-1 & Zone-2 Progress, Urges Faster Disposal of Mitigation Maps

On June 11, 2025, VDA's Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of Zones 1 and 2. From April to early June 2025, Zone-1 collected ₹1.81 crore in compounding fees, including ₹77.81 lakh between May 26–June 8. Zone-2 collected ₹1.35 crore, including ₹10.37 lakh during the same period.



Officials were directed to expedite the disposal of mitigation maps, pursue legal action against defaulters, and ensure sealed sites are properly managed—including clearing basements for parking. Field staff were reminded to promptly address public complaints and crack down on illegal plotting. Any negligence, the Secretary warned, would lead to serious consequences.



## VDA Clears ₹110+ Cr for Citywide Infrastructure Boost

The Infrastructure Fund Committee of the Varanasi Development Authority, led by Commissioner and Chairman Shri Pulkit Garg, approved over ₹110 crore in funding for a range of urban development projects. Highlights include:

- ₹20 crore for smart bus shelters and another ₹20 crore for footpaths and intersection beautification.
- ₹10 crore set aside for new community halls across the city.
- ₹4 crore for civic upgrades like signage, green patches, and road repairs.
- Additional proposals include new toilets and changing rooms in Shivpur (₹77 lakh), a ramp at Ravidas Ghat (₹50 lakh), and beautification of the historic Baba Bade Gabinath Temple (₹1.5 crore).
- Smart classes, health sub-centre upgrades, and Dhobi Ghat construction are also on the docket.







### Zone-3 Leads in Weekly Progress Review

In a review meeting held on June 11, VDA Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra assessed the ten-day progress (June 1–10) of Zones 3, 4, and 5. Among key agenda items were updates on mitigation map approvals, fee recovery, public complaint redressal, demolition actions, and enforcement against unauthorized fuel stations.

Only Zone-3 approved one mitigation map during the period, while Zones 4 and 5 reported none. Still, the three zones collectively deposited ₹36.82 lakh in mitigation fees. Officials were urged to expedite approvals, take enforcement seriously, and prioritize complaint resolution.



### VDA Greenlights Township Near Ganjari Stadium

The 133rd Board Meeting of the Varanasi Development Authority, held on June 9 under the leadership of Divisional Commissioner and VDA Chairman, marked a decisive push toward urban expansion. The spotlight was on the approval of a new urban township near the upcoming international cricket stadium in Ganjari—a project poised to reshape the city's real estate and infrastructure map.

The board also launched a new record room capable of storing 80,000 files, taking the total to 2.55 lakh. Digitization continues, with all pre-2005 records now scanned and preserved. Citizens were handed another win with the launch of the VDA Citizen App and CMS Portal, enabling effortless complaint registration right from their phones.





Major proposals approved included the construction of smart bus shelters, footpaths, and community halls across Varanasi, green spot beautification, and updated building by-laws that now permit basement toilets and penalize unauthorized property transfers. The appointment of RITES as project consultant adds further momentum to the city's evolving development game plan.



### **Zone-Wise Crackdown: VDA Targets Fake Approvals, Illegal Builds & Plotting**

**Zone-2:** VDA sealed an office in Chandmari used to promote unauthorized plotting on 1,500 sqm in Sandha (Rustampur) with fake approval claims. The culprits were booked under the UP Town Planning Act.

**Zone-3:** In Ward-Chowk, a G+3 structure by Ruby Raksha was sealed for being built without a sanctioned map. Enforcement was carried out under sections 27 and 28 of the Act.

**Zone-4:** Two illegal plotting sites—5 bighas each in Kashipur (Tikri) and Nuava—were demolished. Developers Sonu Singh and Manoj Kumar Singh had not obtained layout approval.



**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**