

VARANASI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

22ND FEB '2024



VDA Vice Chairman Engages with World Bank Team on Pro-Poor Project in Sarnath

Pulkit Garg, the Vice Chairman of the Varanasi Development Authority, recently convened with World Bank officials at the VDA office to discuss the progress of the Pro-Poor Project in Sarnath under UP Tourism. The meeting focused on various critical issues, including the distribution of vending carts, management to prevent traffic congestion and promotion of group crafts and work initiatives. As a token of appreciation and goodwill, the Vice Chairman presented the World Bank officials with diaries and calendars.



Successful Notice Hearing and Map Disposal Camp Led by Joint Secretary at VDA

Under the guidance of the Joint Secretary, VDA hosted a productive notice hearing and map disposal camp in its auditorium. The event saw participation from zonal officers, junior engineers, and building clerks across five zones. During the camp, the planning section issued NOCs for 10 map applications, while the acceptance-sealing section granted 25 NOCs. Additionally, 3 new maps were submitted, & 13 previously filed maps received approval. The camp facilitated hearings for 120 notice cases, with 127 attendees benefiting from the session.

Important Update: VDA will conduct a notice hearing and map disposal camp every Thursday of the month, ensuring efficient resolution for the visitors.



VDA Takes Action Against Illegal Construction at Mansaram Gate

Pulkit Garg, the VC of the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA), inspected an illegal building at Mansaram Gate. Following the inspection, the zonal officer received orders to immediately seal the unoccupied/vacant floors of the building. Additionally, instructions were issued to the Police Station Officer at Chetganj to initiate legal proceedings against the builders of the illegal structure under the relevant sections. The Vice Chairman has initiated a public awareness campaign through the VDA's Public Relations Department to further address this issue. This campaign aims to educate the general public on verifying the legitimacy of property and land before making any purchases, enhancing community awareness and preventing future illegal constructions.



NIFT Campus in Varanasi: Land Allotment and Registry Completed

The Varanasi Development Authority has completed the registry for a 7.5-acre plot of land designated for the new campus of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Varanasi. This strategic location, adjacent to the Trade Facilitation Center (Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hastkala Sankul) in the Laalpur Scheme, marks a significant step towards establishing a NIFT campus in the city. The registry process saw the participation of the AIG Stamp, the Director of NIFT, the Sub Registrar of Varanasi, and the Varanasi Development Authority team, collectively paving the way for developing a premier fashion technology institute in Varanasi.



VDA Vice Chairman Inspects Development Works at Seer Govardhan Ahead of Prime Minister's Visit

In preparation for the upcoming visit of the Honorable Prime Minister to Seer Govardhan, the birthplace of Sant Guru Ravidas Ji, Pulkit Garg, the Vice Chairman of the VDA, conducted a thorough site inspection of the ongoing development projects. Accompanied by Secretary Ved Prakash Mishra, Joint Secretary Parmanand Yadav, and Exe Er. Arvind Sharma, the inspection aimed to ensure that all works progress smoothly and should be completed in time for the esteemed event. This visit underscores the VDA's commitment to enhancing the area's infrastructure and honoring the legacy of Sant Guru Ravidas Ji.



World Bank and VDA Empower Artisans in Sarnath through Skill Development Programs

In a significant move towards fostering self-reliance and enhancing livelihoods, the World Bank, in collaboration with the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) and facilitated by NGO Basik India, organized skill development programs in Sarnath under the Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project. These initiatives aimed at training women support groups and artisans in various crafts to become self-dependent and improve their family's economic status.

The World Bank team engaged with members of several Self

Help Groups, including Sakhi, Chanda, Lord Buddha, Durga, Maa, and Lakshmi, listening to transformative stories from handicraft artisans, zari weavers, bead artisans, clay artisans, and wood art artisans. 120 artisans from Sultanpur village and 40 women from Khojwa village received training in skills such as making Rudraksha & wooden crafts with the support of BHU. Additionally, 319 vendors were trained in communication skills, digital payment skills, and income enhancement strategies.

To further aid in developing these artisans, the World Bank provided essential machinery, including a crusher machine in Sultanpur and beads drilling & sewing machines in Singhpur, Sarnath. The program saw the participation of key figures such as Ms. Stefania Abbakerli (Team Task Leader, World Bank), Ms. Sonhwa Peter (Environment Expert, World Bank), Sanjay Saxena (Team Manager, World Bank), O.P. Srivastava (SPCU), L.B. Dubey (TSU), JE Shivaji Mishra, Ar. Aman Sahu, highlighting a collective effort to uplift the artisan community in Sarnath.

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.

- ✉ Email Id: vdavaranasi@gmail.com
- 🌐 Website: <https://vdavns.com>
- 📷 Instagram: (@vdavaranasi)
- 🐦 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/vdavaranasi>
- 📘 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com>

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