



VARANASI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

25th August '2025



VDA Allots 82 PMAY Homes via Transparent Lottery

Varanasi Development Authority hit a milestone in housing delivery with the successful allotment of 82 homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana on August 20. The allotment—carried out through a lottery system—was held at Girija Devi Cultural Complex, Chowkaghat, and drew 642 hopeful applicants.

The homes, located in Harhua and Kurhua villages, were awarded transparently in the presence of the beneficiaries themselves to ensure absolute fairness. Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg, along with key district officials, oversaw the process, underlining the authority's commitment to equitable and efficient urban development.





VDA Moves to Hand Over Park Maintenance to RWA

Varanasi Development Authority is stepping up citizen involvement by planning to hand over maintenance of three parks in Manyavar Kanshiram Awas Yojana, Indrapur Shivpur to the local RWA. In a recent meeting chaired by Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, it was discussed that once the ongoing beautification and development work is completed, the parks' upkeep will be transferred to the Resident Welfare Association, in line with government orders.

However, the currently inactive RWA is set to be reconstituted before the handover. Officials emphasized collaboration with vendors and active community participation to ensure sustainable maintenance.



VDA Checks In on Suraj Paradise Flats

Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg conducted an on-site inspection of Suraj Paradise, a group housing project with 65 flats built in Mauja-Dhanesari under Tehsil Pindara. The visit was part of the final review before issuing the project's completion certificate.

The B+G+6 structure underwent checks for double-stack basement parking, STP, rainwater harvesting, and a solar power system on the terrace. Flats on the 6th floor were also reviewed for compliance. Officials from Town Planning and Zone-1 were present during the inspection.





VDA Launches Record Conservation & Digitization Drive

Varanasi Development Authority has kicked off a ₹14.99 lakh project for the conservation and digitization of old records, partnering with INTACH Lucknow as the implementing agency. The initiative includes the preservation of 26 maps from 1930–1950 and 95 post-1957 files totaling over 5,200 pages.

A three-day training program will be held soon to equip VDA staff with techniques in scientific record conservation, pest control, and environmental monitoring. Digitization has already begun in the newly built archives, ensuring VDA's historical documents are safeguarded for the long haul.



Zone-1: VDA Cracks Down on Unapproved Constructions in Khajuri

Vice Chairman of Varanasi Development Authority, Pulkit Garg, conducted a field inspection in Zone-1's Khajuri area (Ward-Sikroul) to assess several unauthorized constructions.

A hotel constructed by Ratan Babu was found to have G+3 floors with a temporary shed on the fourth floor, but the submitted mitigation map showed major non-compliance with setback norms, leading to its rejection. The Vice Chairman instructed that hotel operations can only resume post-approval.

Meanwhile, Ramesh Verma's multiple warehouse structures—some covering 300–400 sq.m and one encroaching on road-widening space—were also flagged. He's been directed to seek map approval and immediately dismantle encroachments.





VDA Accelerates Record Preservation in New Archives

Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra chaired a review meeting on the ongoing record preservation efforts at Varanasi Development Authority's new archives. So far, 7,215 files from various departments have been transferred for systematic storage and verification. To ensure full compliance, all section heads and zonal officers were directed to list and move the remaining files—especially those in the second-floor tin shed—to the archives within a week.



Knowledge Hub Coming Soon: VDA VC Inspects New Library Site

Varanasi is getting a future-ready knowledge space. VDA Vice Chairman Pulkrit Garg inspected the site of the upcoming ₹20 crore Net Zero Library, being developed with NHPC's support. Spread over 20,930 sq. ft., the three-storey facility will house 35,000+ books and accommodate 500 readers. With Ganga-inspired architecture, the library will feature a children's area, digital archive, cultural gallery, green terrace, and eco-friendly systems like solar power and rainwater harvesting. Garg also visited the current library, emphasizing cleanliness, drinking water, power supply, and seating improvements.



Zone-2 Under Scrutiny: VDA Steps Up Enforcement

VDA's Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma chaired a review meeting for Zone-2, tightening oversight on mitigation map approvals and pending dues. From April to mid-August FY 2025–26, the zone collected ₹2.63 crore in mitigation fees, including ₹4.6 lakh last week alone across Sarnath, Adampur, Jaitpura, and Vinash wards. Officers were instructed to expedite case-wise approvals, crack down on builders with outstanding fees, and clear sealed cases for parking compliance. Sharma emphasized speedy resolution of public complaints and toughened the stance on illegal plotting and unauthorized construction. "No room for laxity," he warned field teams and zonal officials.



Zones 3, 4 & 5 Under the Lens: VDA Tightens the Screws

VDA Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra conducted a detailed review of Zones 3, 4, and 5, covering work progress from August 1–10 and monthly performance reports (MPRs). With only three mitigation maps approved and ₹31.09 lakh collected in fees, the Secretary didn't mince words—calling out underperformance and slow file disposal. Key issues included illegal plotting, unauthorized fuel stations, and unresolved public complaints. Zonal Officers from Dashaswamedh, Bhelupur, and Mughalsarai were told to expedite approvals and hit revenue targets—no excuses, just execution.





Zone-1: VDA Seals Illegal Construction

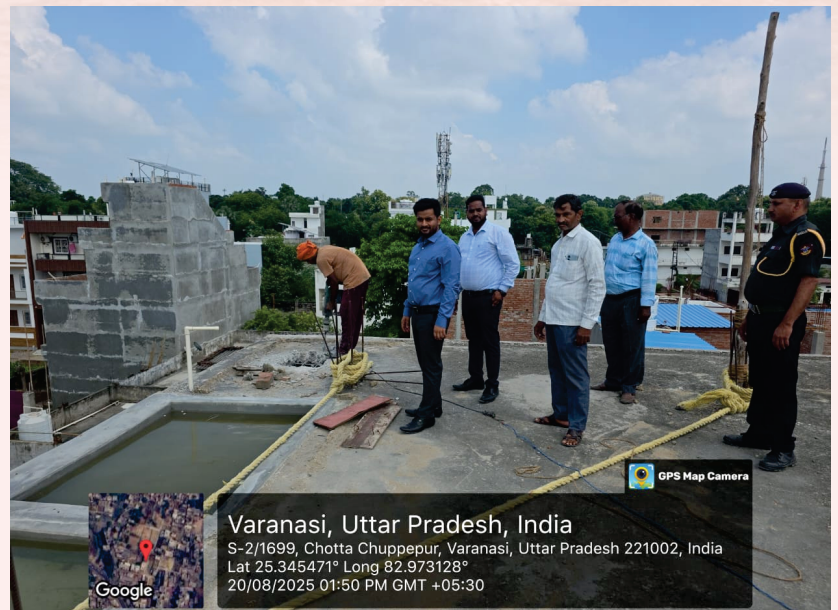
Residential Map Misused for Commercial Showroom

In Ward-Shivpur, Mauja-Sikroul, Arvind Kumar Dubey submitted a mitigation map for a B+G+2 residential structure on 29.04.2024, which was approved on 07.05.2025. However, he unlawfully installed a glass façade and began using the premises as a commercial showroom—violating the approved plan. As a result, the structure was sealed on 19.08.2025 under the UP Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973, and handed over to police custody.



Repeated Violation on the Same Property

Despite prior sealing action, unauthorized commercial use continued at the same location. The enforcement team, led by Zonal Officer Shivji Mishra and Junior Engineer Rohit Kumar, returned to the site with police and sealed the property again to ensure compliance.



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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