



VARANASI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

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Sculptures Bring Varanasi's Crossroads to Life

Varanasi's streets are turning into open-air art galleries. In a joint initiative by VDA, BLW, the Ministry of Railways, and the Ministry of Culture, 62 unique sculptures are being installed at key locations across the city. Recently, nine statues showcasing traditional dance styles from different Indian states were unveiled in the Nadesar area, quickly becoming a new attraction for locals and visitors alike. More than beautification, these installations weave heritage and identity into the city's fabric, offering passersby a glimpse of India's vibrant cultural diversity right at the intersections of daily life.





VDA Adds Modern Touches to Varanasi's Streetscape

Varanasi Development Authority is rolling out a series of urban beautification projects designed to make the city safer, cleaner, and more vibrant—while reflecting its cultural soul.

Among the highlights: A 5-meter-high “Constitution Wall” between Kachhari Junction and Ambedkar Circle will feature the Preamble and illuminated quotes from the Prime Minister. At Mint House Junction, zebra crossings are being splashed with color to promote pedestrian safety under the “Tactical Urbanism” initiative.



Before



After

From thematic lighting with bells and diyas on the Victory Bridge–Taj Hotel median to new directional signage at key junctions, the upgrades blend utility with aesthetics. Even in front of the Taj Hotel, uniform signage will guide visitors seamlessly while enhancing the city's look.

With these changes, VDA is aiming for a Varanasi that feels both modern and deeply rooted in tradition.



VDA Holds Farmer Grievance Camp under Transport Nagar Yojana

To address farmer concerns linked to the Transport Nagar Yojana, Varanasi Development Authority organized a special camp on August 22 at its Bairwan office. The session, chaired by Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma, saw active participation from farmers, including Gram Pradhan Lal Bihari.



A total of seven applications were submitted during the camp, with receipts issued immediately to ensure transparency. Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg directed that all applications be resolved on priority and updates be communicated promptly to the farmers.

Officials from engineering, revenue, and field teams—including the Executive Engineer, Tehsildar, Assistant Engineer, Junior Engineer, Kanungo, and Lekhpal—were present to support the process.



Varanasi Roads Get a Cultural Makeover

The streets of Kashi are turning into open-air galleries. As part of its ongoing beautification drive, Varanasi Development Authority has adorned road dividers with vibrant paintings of Ganga Ghats and Banaras' famed musical heritage.

The initiative, widely appreciated on social media, blends art with awareness—enhancing the city's charm while discouraging littering. Tourists and locals alike will now spot scenes of ghats and cultural motifs that showcase the essence of Varanasi.

Officials hope this effort not only gives the city a fresh aesthetic appeal but also nudges citizens to keep Kashi clean and honor its heritage.

Before>



After>



VDA Holds Leadership Session for Field Officers

Varanasi Development Authority organized a special session on "Presentation on Leadership to Field Officers" on 06 September 2025 at its auditorium. The program was inaugurated by Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg, who welcomed senior IAS officer (1994 batch, Andhra Pradesh cadre) Praveen Prakash with a bouquet, shawl, and memento.



In his address, Prakash spoke on the qualities of effective leadership, stressing that strong leadership boosts efficiency, enhances work culture, and drives organizational growth. The session saw enthusiastic participation from all regional officers, regular staff, and outsourced personnel of VDA.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra.



VDA Clears Map for Birla Open Mind International School in Just 72 Hours

Varanasi is set to welcome a new world-class education hub as the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) approved the map for Birla Open Mind International School in Anantpur, Ring Road Phase 2—within just 72 hours. The school, proposed by SAS Vidyapeeth Foundation, will accommodate 1,150 students and be built on a 5,988 sq. m. plot in line with Varanasi Master Plan 2031 and the new Building Bye-Laws 2025.



The seven-floor school complex will include labs for physics, chemistry, biology, and computers, an indoor sports room, reading hall, canteen, and staff facilities. Sustainability has been prioritized with rainwater harvesting, solar power systems, solid waste management, and a 570 sq. m. green field. Parking for 64 cars and 10 school buses is also planned.

With a built-up area of 9,878 sq. m. and a FAR of 2.0, the school is poised to bring modern infrastructure and global-level education opportunities to Varanasi.



VDA Pushes for Faster Grievance Redressal

At a review meeting on August 23, VDA Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra stressed the need for timely and quality disposal of complaints under the Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGRS) and Public Information. Expressing dissatisfaction with the Authority's poor June ranking in the state's evaluation report, he directed all zonal officers to take concrete steps to improve performance in the coming months.

Dr. Mishra instructed that every referenced case must be backed by on-site inspections and direct engagement with complainants to ensure fair resolution. Officials from engineering, property, and zonal offices were present at the meeting.



VDA Reviews ₹5.83 Cr Mini Sports Stadium Project in Shivpur

VDA Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma inspected the renovation of the mini sports stadium at Shivpur on August 29. The project, funded under VDA's infrastructure budget at a cost of ₹5.83 crore, aims to transform the site into a modern multi-sports facility.

Planned features include hockey, football, and volleyball courts, cricket practice nets, an indoor games hall, walking track, yoga pavilion, spectator stands, children's play area, and an open gym. During inspection, Dr. Sharma noted steady progress on the indoor games hall and directed the agency to complete soil-filling work on time while ensuring quality.





VDA Reviews Zone-3, 4 & 5 Progress

Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra chaired a review of works in Zone-3, Zone-4, and Zone-5 for August 2025. The meeting covered mitigation maps, fee recovery, IGRS complaints, illegal plotting, unauthorized fuel stations, and top defaulters.

During the period, 10 maps were approved (Zone-3: 8, Zone-4: 1, Zone-5: 1), and ₹3.34 crore was deposited as mitigation fees. The Secretary expressed displeasure at collections falling short of targets, particularly in Zone-5.



Strict directions included: disposal of pending files, show cause notices to Zone-5, stopping salaries of Zone-5 staff for September, and requiring each zone to secure approval of at least 10 major maps in September. Officers were also told to intensify enforcement against illegal plotting and personally resolve IGRS complaints for better citizen satisfaction.



Transport Nagar Yojana Works Under Review

VDA Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra reviewed ongoing works under the Transport Nagar Yojana, focusing on the retaining wall construction and energizing of the proposed 33/11 KV power substation. Progress on the overhead line from the 220 KV Thathra (Kachhwa) substation to the site—using 33 KV cable, dog conductor, and STP/PC poles—was also assessed.

Expressing dissatisfaction over delays, the Secretary instructed the implementing agency to accelerate execution and complete the works within the stipulated timeframe. Senior engineers and project staff were present during the review.





Zone-1: VDA Seals Illegal Construction Promoted on Social Media

The Varanasi Development Authority moved swiftly against an illegal construction in Ward-Shivpur, Zone-1, after it was falsely promoted through a Facebook reel. The case involved three duplexes on about 700 sq. meters in Mauja-Mansapur, Harhua Chowki, built without approved maps. On 11/09/2025, the enforcement team led by Zonal Officer Shivaji Mishra and Junior Engineer Rohit Kumar sealed the property and handed it over to police custody. The Authority clarified that while a VDA-approved and RERA-registered duplex map



exists, misleading promotion and sale of unauthorized construction via social media or any other platform is strictly prohibited and will invite immediate 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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With love and excitement!

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VARANASI**