# VARANASI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

### **2nd October '2024**

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### VDA Approves 42-Room Hotel in Chetganj in Just 5 Days

Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) swiftly approved the map for a 42room, three-star hotel in just five days. Submitted by developer Mohanlal Shrikishan Seth, the project is located on a 1248.60 sqm plot at Arazi No. 629 in Chetganj Ward. The hotel, with a Double B+G+3 floor structure and 14.95-meter height, will feature a banquet hall, conference room, multi-cuisine restaurant, and ample parking.

The project aims to boost the city's hospitality offerings for tourists, particularly in the busy areas of Chetganj and Maldahiya. VDA Vice Chairman emphasized the importance of obtaining proper approval before starting construction.





#### Varanasi Development Authority Leads State in E-Office Implementation

Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) has secured the top spot in Uttar Pradesh for handling e-files and ereceipts on the e-office platform. As part of the government's push towards creating a "paperless office," the e-office system was implemented across departments following directives from the Chief Minister in June 2024. VDA was the first authority in the state to "Go live" with this system, achieving significant success in processing e-files and receipts.

By 15th September, VDA had created 57 new files and processed 187 files, handling 382 receipts. The e-office system, developed by NIC under the Digital India initiative, enhances transparency, efficiency, and accountability in government operations, allowing departments to make faster, more informed decisions.







#### **Upgrades Planned for** Sant Guru Ravidas Park

A review meeting led by VDA Vice Chairman Shri Pulkit Garg discussed the upgradation of Sant Guru Ravidas Park in Nagwan. The project, funded by the Tourism Department and executed by UPPCL, will include the installation of a pathway with a synthetic EPDM track, rainwater harvesting, children's play equipment, designer lighting, and other enhancements. The Vice Chairman emphasized that the park should remain open to the public during the upgrade and that work should proceed with care. Key officials, including UPPCL Manager Praveen Kumar Sharma and VDA engineers, were present at the meeting.



#### **Dashaswamedh Plaza Review Meeting Led by Divisional Commissioner**

Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma chaired a review meeting on issues related to Dashaswamedh Plaza, attended by VDA Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg and other key officials. It was decided that electricity bills for lights and equipment at the public space would be covered by allottees. Cleanliness and security will be funded by DADF. Additionally, a world-class public toilet will be constructed at Chittaranjan Park, with more greenery added. The estimated price of the proposed restaurant on DADF's top floor will be reassessed, as well as the prices of 30 unsold shops, which will be auctioned at a lower price if needed.





#### VDA Vice Chairman Inspects Development Work at Shivpur Mini Stadium

VDA Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg inspected the Late Olympian Vivek Singh Mini Stadium in Shivpur, focusing on its development needs. Accompanied by officials from Smart City Limited and VDA, he reviewed the stadium's facilities. The Mini Stadium Development Committee requested upgrades, including seating, soil levelling, boundary wall renovation, pavilion construction, drainage, a running track, children's mini park, high mast lights, and beautification of a yoga space. The Vice Chairman directed the Superintending Engineer to prepare an estimate for these improvements and proceed with the necessary actions.





#### VDA Holds Review Meeting for Zone-1

Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma conducted a review meeting for Zone-1 at Varanasi Development Authority. Case-wise reviews of pending settlement maps were conducted, with instructions for their prompt resolution. In the past week, ₹1.22 crore was collected as settlement fees, though ₹3.31 crore remains outstanding from 67 defaulters. Field staff and the junior engineer have been given 15 days to collect the outstanding dues. Builders failing to pay will face legal action. Additional directives focused on resolving public grievances within a week, clearing basements for parking, and tackling illegal plotting and unplanned developments.





#### VDA Vice Chairman Inspects Lalpur Residential Plot Allotted to BSNL and NIFT

Vice Chairman of Varanasi Development Authority, Pulkit Garg, along with AGM of BSNL and NIFT, inspected a 10-acre plot in Lalpur Residential Phase I. Of this land, 7.5 acres were transferred to NIFT, with ₹122.92 lakh paid to BSNL for the assigned area. The government also released ₹295.15 lakh to compensate for relocating BSNL buildings and telecom equipment and constructing a new boundary wall. The Vice Chairman informed NIFT representatives that they may begin construction and directed officers to expedite the remaining payments to BSNL.



### VDA Vice Chairman Inspects UP College Hockey Field, Calls for Improvements

On September 13, 2024, Varanasi Development Authority Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg inspected the hockey field at UP College. Accompanied by district and Smart City officials, the Principal highlighted the need for upgrades, including turf flooring, sprinklers, basketball courts, and other facilities. The Vice Chairman directed the construction department's architect to prepare a detailed improvement plan with estimated costs.





#### **VDA Reviews Ropeway Construction Progress**

Varanasi Development Authority Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg chaired a review meeting on the ropeway construction project from Varanasi Cantt Railway Station to Godaulia Square. During the review, officials from the Electricity Department and Jalkal were instructed to expedite the shifting of transformers and wires. Expressing dissatisfaction with delays, Garg directed the departments to promptly resolve roadcutting and shifting issues. VDA Secretary Ved Prakash Mishra, Superintending Engineer Ajay Pawar, and other officials attended the meeting.



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#### **VDA Vice Chairman Conducts Site Inspections**



Varanasi Development Authority Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg conducted site inspections in Ward Sikraul. The inspections followed applications for a multi-residential mitigation map from Sanjay Kumar Gupta (Net Plot Area 447 sqm) and a commercial mitigation map from Shyam Sunder (Net Plot Area 122.50 sqm). Necessary action was directed for both cases. The Junior Engineer and building owners were present during the inspection.



#### VDA Meeting on Road Widening from Rathyatra to Kamchha

VDA Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg convened a meeting to discuss road widening from Rathyatra to Kamchha Bhelupur Power House. Officials from BHU's Education Faculty and various departments shared their insights. Following the discussions, the Vice Chairman proceeded with the road widening under the Master Plan, instructing relevant officials accordingly. Secretary Ved Prakash Mishra, Town Planner Prabhat Kumar, and Superintending Engineer Ajay Pawar were present.





#### VDA Holds Review Meeting on Map Disposal and Enforcement

A review meeting chaired by VDA Secretary Dr Ved Prakash Mishra focused on map settlement, pending deposits, complaint resolution, and enforcement actions in Zone-4, covering Ward Nagwan and Bhelupur. Key topics included:

- Stopping construction on sealed buildings.
- Addressing illegal plotting and basements.
- Ensuring map approval for illegal petrol pumps.

It was decided that notices would be issued if records were not submitted within 10 days post-action. Rs 47.73 lakh in mitigation fees were collected this month, with a target to increase to ₹1 crore. Joint Secretary Parmanand Yadav, Town Planner Prabhat Kumar, and other officials were present.





#### VDA Reviews Action on Letters from MPs and MLAs

A review meeting chaired by VDA Secretary Dr Ved Prakash Mishra focused on actions taken regarding letters sent by MPs and MLAs to the government and administration. The meeting found that necessary actions had been taken in most cases. The Secretary instructed all section heads to log promptly received letters and ensure that MPs and MLAs are informed of actions taken. He emphasized prioritizing the timely disposal of letters from public representatives in the future. Key officials, including Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma and Zonal Officers, attended the meeting.





#### **VDA Secretary Reviews Construction Department**

Secretary Dr Ved Prakash Mishra chaired a review meeting of the Varanasi Development Authority's construction department. Contractors and department officers attended, where Dr Mishra assured personal site visits and directed the construction officers to expedite payment issues faced by contractors. He also proposed extending the contractors' renewal period from one year to three years to address ongoing concerns. The Secretary expressed dissatisfaction with the delays and urged prompt resolution by the rules. Superintending Engineer Anand Mishra, Assistant Engineer Shivaji Mishra, and other officers were present.



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VDA Transfers the JCB Lifter Tow Van to the Traffic Department



On 27/09/2024, Varanasi Development Authority Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg handed over a 75 HP JCB Lifter Tow Van, valued at ₹54 lakhs, to DCP Traffic Hridayesh Kumar. With a 4-tonne lifting capacity and one year of free repairs, the vehicle will be used to clear traffic obstructions and tow vehicles parked in noparking zones. Fines will be collected from offenders, improving traffic flow in the city.



**Puram Colony** 

**VDA Vice Chairman Inspects Patrakar** 

Vice Chairman of Varanasi Development Authority, Pulkit Garg, inspected Patrakar Puram Colony, directing the RWA to clean and maintain the park. He also instructed the Executive Engineer to renovate the park and notify the community hall operator if any deficiencies were found. Property Officer Rajiv Jaiswal and the Assistant Property Officer were present during the inspection.

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#### Meeting Held on Sale of Vacant Properties at VDA

A meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Varanasi Development Authority Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg to discuss the sale of vacant properties. Issues related to the Pandeypur Aawasiya Yojna (first, second, and third phases) and Badi Gaubi Aawasiya Yojna were addressed. The construction section was instructed to resolve pending issues, while the property section was directed to auction 83 remaining flats and repair 58 others. VDA Secretary Ved Prakash Mishra, Additional Secretary Gunakesh Sharma, and other officials were present.



#### Detailed Plan for Strengthening and Beautification of Ganga Bridge and Road in Front of Ramnagar Fort

On 27th September 2024, a meeting chaired by VDA Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg discussed the strengthening, beautification, and development of the Ganga Bridge and the road in front of Ramnagar Fort. Ernst & Young proposed widening and beautifying the route, constructing dividers to ease traffic, and creating wedding zones and pathways for better visitor amenities.

Vice Chairman Garg directed the SDM Sadar to provide land ownership and revenue records to ensure smooth project implementation. The beautification plan includes modern infrastructure, greenery promotion, and a cultural wedding zone to boost local tourism and enhance the city's infrastructure.



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#### Zone-2 Review Meeting Led by Additional Secretary of VDA

A review meeting of Zone-2 was chaired by VDA's Additional Secretary, Dr. Gudakesh Sharma. Key discussions included pending settlement maps, with instructions given for prompt resolution. In the past week, ₹20.86 lakh has been collected in settlement fees from Sarnath, Adampur, and Jaitpur, though a total of ₹4.75 crore remains outstanding. Field staff were instructed to collect the dues within 15 days, and enforcement actions were urged against non-compliant builders. The Zonal Officer was also directed to address basement parking issues and ensure swift public grievance redressal.





#### VDA Seals Illegal Constructions in Zone-2

The Varanasi Development Authority's enforcement team in Zone 2 sealed two illegally constructed buildings on 10/08/2024. Haji Abdul Hasan's building at Hanuman Phatak, Ward-Adampur, and Vakil Ahmed's building at Mohalla Hans Talle, Ward-Jaitpur, were sealed for being constructed without proper map approval. The action was taken under Sections 27, 28 (1), and 28 (2) of the Uttar Pradesh Town Planning and Development Act, 1973. Zonal Officer Sanjeev Kumar and Junior Engineer Vinod Kumar were present during the sealing.







#### VDA Seals Illegal Constructions in Zone-4

The Varanasi Development Authority's enforcement team in Zone 4 took action against multiple illegal constructions in Nagwa and Bhelupur. Under the direction of Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg, VDA Secretary Dr Ved Prakash Mishra inspected the areas and oversaw the sealing of unauthorized buildings. Key actions included sealing a G+3 structure on a 200 sqm plot in Vivekanandpuri, Chitaipur, owned by Gopal Shankar Singh, and another underconstruction building in Lakhraon belonging to Awadhesh Kumar Kaushik. Additional illegal constructions were sealed in Saket Nagar and Gurudham Colony. The properties were handed over to local police for monitoring.



# VDA Demolishes Illegal Plotting

The Varanasi Development Authority's enforcement team in Zone-1 carried out demolition action against illegal plotting in Ward-Shivpur. Approximately 3 bighas of unauthorized plotting were being developed by unknown individuals in Bhatauli, Ward-Shivpur. The unlawful site was demolished on 12/09/2024 with the support of the enforcement team and police. Zonal Officer Singh Gaurav Jai Prakash and Junior Engineer Atul Mishra were present during the operation.

#### VDA Takes Action Against Illegal Construction and Restaurant Operation

Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) took action against illegal construction and an unauthorized restaurant in building D-58/19 A-4, Sigra. Following a complaint about an illegally operating restaurant in the basement and Phoenix Gym on the third and second floors, VDA officials, led by Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, conducted an inspection. It was found that the building had unauthorized commercial construction on B+G+3 floors, while the approved map only allowed B+G+2 floors. The builder was given 7 days to remove the extra illegal floor and close the basement restaurant, restoring it for parking use. If the builder fails to comply, strict action will follow.





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#### VDA Takes Action Against Illegal Construction and Restaurant Operation

The Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) has initiated action against illegal construction and the unauthorized operation of a restaurant in building D-58/19 A-4, Sigra. After receiving a complaint about a restaurant operating illegally in the basement and Phoenix Gym on the second and third floors, VDA officials led by Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra inspected the site. The building was discovered to have unauthorized commercial construction with B+G+3 floors, while the approved plan allowed only B+G+2 floors. The builder has been given 7 days to remove the illegal third floor and shut down the basement restaurant, restoring the space for parking. Non-compliance will result in strict action.



#### VDA Demolishes Unauthorized Plotting in Zone-3

The Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) enforcement team demolished illegal plotting in Zone-3's Ward-Dashaswamedh, Mauja-Kallipur, where Amrish Singh was developing 1.5 bighas without layout approval. Despite receiving notice on 15/09/2024, the party needed to provide proper documentation. As a result, the illegal development was demolished on 27/09/2024 with the assistance of police and enforcement personnel. VDA Vice Chairman has urged the public only to purchase VDA-approved plots and refrain from unapproved construction to avoid strict legal 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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