



VARANASI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

2nd June 2025



Varanasi Lays the Groundwork—Literally

To cut down on the patchwork digging that plagues many urban roads, the Varanasi Development Authority is taking a smarter route. As part of its urban enhancement project near Central Jail Road, VDA has constructed a new footpath from Phulwaria Square to the Central Jail—with a twist.

Beneath the newly paved walkway lies a 7-way cable duct system designed for utilities like electric lines and OFC cables. Departments wanting access to the duct will need to go through VDA's approval process and pay a set usage fee.





Dashashwamedh Plaza Gets a Facelift

Varanasi's iconic Dashashwamedh Plaza is getting a makeover worth ₹61.77 lakh, courtesy of the Varanasi Development Authority. The ongoing rejuvenation project aims to preserve the area's cultural vibe while upgrading its structural integrity and visual appeal.

Here's what's changing:

- Plaza walls are being painted in earthy brown to blend with the ghat's historic surroundings.
- Cluttered ad boards? Gone. New signage is going up at designated spots.
- Decorative yet functional metal jaalis are being installed on doors and windows to ward off monkeys and improve ventilation.
- Balconies are being sealed off to enhance safety.
- A new entry sign will mark the plaza in style.



The design leans into heritage aesthetics, featuring floral and urn motifs along with night lighting to elevate the space after dark.



VDA Brings Culture and Community Together in Rural Hubs

The Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) is redefining rural infrastructure with the construction of model community buildings in Chittauni (Rohaniya) and Thathara (Sewapuri). These spaces aren't just halls—they're cultural canvases.

Cultural meets contemporary:

Inspired by the region's rich craft heritage, the buildings will feature precast concrete panels etched with traditional sari and carpet weaving motifs. From ACP cladding to PVC fluted ceilings and Asian Paints interiors, it's a blend of form and function.



Big on quality and impact:

Equipped with modern lighting (Philips), soundproofing, designer tiles, and fully accessible restrooms, the halls aim to serve as ideal venues for local gatherings. The budget? ₹2.73 crore for Chittauni and ₹2.75 crore for Thathara.



VDA Steps Up Enforcement in Zones 1 & 2

In a review led by Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma, VDA emphasized quick action on mitigation maps and enforcement cases in Zones 1 and 2.

- Zone 1 collected ₹77.2L in compounding fees (May 12–25); FY total: ₹41.4L
- Zone 2 collected ₹13.8L; FY total: ₹38.6L

Officials were instructed to clear sealed sites, ensure basement parking, resolve



complaints within a week, and act firmly against illegal construction and dues defaulters.



Zone-1 and Zone-4 Bag Top Honors at VDA Awards

On May 29, the Varanasi Development Authority recognized top-performing zones for their planning efficiency. Zone-1 was awarded for approving the highest number of building maps (15), while Zone-4 led in revenue, depositing a whopping ₹2.20 crore.

Here's the breakdown:

- Zone-1: ₹42.46L | 15 maps approved
- Zone-2: ₹40.70L | 2 maps
- Zone-3: ₹65.51L | 6 maps
- Zone-4: ₹2.20Cr | 5 maps
- Zone-5: ₹25.02L | 4 maps

Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra praised the zones' performance, with key officers including Additional Secretary Dr. Gudakesh Sharma and City Planner Prabhat Kumar in attendance.





VDA Reviews Zone-3, 4 & 5: 7 Maps Approved, ₹50L+ Collected

In a weekly review chaired by Secretary Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, the Varanasi Development Authority evaluated progress across Zone-3 (Dashaswamedh, Chetganj, Chowk, Kotwali), Zone-4 (Bhelupur, Nagwan), and Zone-5 (Ramnagar, Mughalsarai) for the period of May 21-28.

Key updates:

- 7 mitigation maps approved: 5 from Zone-3, 1 each from Zone-4 and Zone-5.
- A total of ₹50.57 lakh collected in mitigation fees.
- Emphasis was placed on: disposal of pending maps, red-flagged IGRS complaints, demolition of illegal plots, and action on unapproved fuel stations.
- Officers were also reminded to act against top defaulters and unregulated layouts.



VDA's Notice Hearing & Map Disposal Camp Clears 100+ Cases

Following Vice Chairman Pulkit Garg's directive, the Varanasi Development Authority held a "Notice Hearing and Map Disposal Camp" at its auditorium to expedite citizen services.

The camp saw strong turnout and action:

- 105 notice cases were addressed
- 09 mitigation maps approved, 06 filed
- ₹20.83 lakh collected in authority funds
- 35 map objections resolved



A total of 67 applicants participated. Additional Secretary Parmanand Yadav, along with all zonal officers and key departmental staff, ensured swift resolution. The VDA announced that these camps will now be held weekly every Thursday, streamlining public service delivery.



VDA Intensifies Action on Unauthorized Constructions and Plotting

Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) has continued its city-wide crackdown on illegal constructions and unapproved plotting across multiple zones, with on-site inspections leading to sealing and demolition actions.

Sealing Operations

• Zone-3 (Ward-Chetganj):

During inspection of Maldahiya Marg, three buildings were sealed on the spot:

1. G+4 commercial structure (approx. 3000 sq. ft.) built in violation of approved G+3 map by Sarla Ben Rasik Bhai Samani.
2. G+2 construction near Vijay Nagar Colony Gate, Maldahiya.
3. G+3 commercial construction by Soni Gupta and Shatrughan Gupta, Loha Mandi.

• Zone-1 (Ward-Shivpur):

Illegal G+1 extension by Vivek Pandey over 40x60 sq. ft. in Mauja-Bhelkha was sealed on 21.05.2025.

• Zone-5 (Ward-Mughalsarai):

Despite earlier notice, unauthorized night-time construction by KD Mishra and Satnam Singh in Mauja Subhashnagar and Bechupur was sealed on 17.05.2025.



Demolition Drives

• Zone-1 (Ward-Shivpur):

Approximately 5 bighas of unauthorized plotting in Mauja-Aura, Ayar Bazaar was demolished on 19.05.2025 after failure to submit a mitigation map.

• Zone-2 (Ward-Sarnath):

2 bighas of illegal plotting in Mouza-Hirawanpur was demolished on 17.05.2025 as per UP Town Planning and Development Act, 1973.

These operations reinforce VDA's zero-tolerance approach toward unauthorized urban expansion and reflect a consistent effort toward planned and lawful city development.

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**