

Varanasi

FIGHTS COVID-19

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This Newsletter under the Waste NAMA project aims to document and highlights how the city of Varanasi is fighting COVID-19. Particularly the efforts by Varanasi Municipal Corporation (VMC).

The Project, 'Development and Management of Waste NAMA (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA))' has been commissioned by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India as its lead executing agency. It is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India along with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) as its technical partner.

In Varanasi, this project is being implemented in association with the VMC, and it fundamentally endeavors to build capacities among citizens, VMC staff, contractors etc. and demonstrate measures in waste management sector that lead to reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions. The models implemented in Varanasi are expected to be replicated and upscaled across India.

As part of technical advisory support under the project, a document titled 'Guidance on handling waste during COVID-19 Outbreak' summarizing guidance from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and advisory from Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs (MoHUA) had been prepared. This document highlighted the 'Do's and Don'ts of Waste Management' for the various groups of stakeholders in the waste management chain.

Summary of Guidance on Waste Management During Covid-19 Outbreak
Issued in Public Interest

As part of the Development and Management of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in India project commissioned by Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India as lead executing agency waste NAMA pilots are being implemented in City of Varanasi and Goa. The project is being implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) India with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) as partner. This summary of guidance from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), World Health Organization (WHO) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been prepared as a part of technical advisory support under Waste NAMA project. Other sources referred are mentioned in the reference section as well. The stakeholders are requested to refer to detailed guidelines by respective agencies for details.

Procedure for handling waste under COVID-19 Situation:
If you are having symptoms of COVID 19 what should you do?

Table 1: Do's and Don'ts for general public having symptoms of COVID 19:

Do's	Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Segregate your waste into organic and biodegradable (Green bin), inorganic and recyclable (Blue bin) and household hazardous waste (Red Bin) ¹ Hold your organic waste² and recyclable waste and merits for a duration of 2-3 days separately in closed lid bins to let the virus die. Post 2-3 days this can be given with general waste to waste collector. Keep your biomedical waste separately in yellow colored bags (for biomedical waste collection) provided by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Make sure it does not leak and is kept in separate bins out of reach of other members of the family and pets. Call your ULB solid waste management cell and identify nearest Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF) operator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't dispose Mixed Solid Waste. Don't dispose your waste the very same day you generated it. It can spread the infection to waste collectors. Don't throw your household hazardous waste in any garbage bag. Only use yellow colored bags. Don't dispose your waste in nearby locality/in water body/open plots. Don't panic, contact your ULB for assistance.

¹ Comprising of used syringes, date expired or discarded medicines, soiled masks/gloves and in case of patients with other chronic diseases may also include drain bags, urine bags, body fluid or blood-soaked tissues/cotton, empty ampoules etc.
² Preferably if you can compost your organic waste it is beneficial for you and the city as well. Don't feed to animals at this stage.

VMC's HELPLINE: 1077



On behalf of:



of the Federal Republic of Germany



VMC SMARTLY FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

COVID-19 pandemic is no less than a war and VMC is managing this situation smartly with the help of skilled staff, various technological solutions, digital and online platforms. Varanasi has established an Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), set up under Smart City project and its Infrastructure has been used in the fight against COVID-19.

During this pandemic Smart City Varanasi started a dedicated application named "SAFE KASHI", which clearly shows the government appeals, orders and actions taken by the administration. This application is also comprising of provisions for accessing online travel e-pass, home delivery of essentials, consulting with doctor/psychiatrist, platform to report any incident and 24 X 7 COVID-19 tracking system. These actions have been taken for successfully enforcing lockdown as well as delivering of essential commodities during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The Government also undertook a community health door to door survey in the city so as to ascertain symptoms of Influenza like Illness (ILI) in a bid to contain community transmission. VMC also used different tools and strategies to fight against COVID-19. The sections below highlight VMCs efforts in fighting the pandemic upfront.

Free home delivery of food items during the lockdown

During all four phase of lockdown due to pandemic, free delivery of grocery items including green vegetables and food via phone call orders were arranged by VMC for residents within VMC jurisdiction. A helpline number 0542- 2508585, 9415064193 was launched for the delivery services. As many as 325 four wheelers and 412 delivery men and women had been engaged in this service.

Collection of waste from COVID -19 quarantined homes-

VMC safai workers have been collecting the waste from quarantined homes in sealed designated Bio – Medical Waste Disposal Bags (yellow in colour) with proper personal protective equipment (PPEs). Sanitation Inspector have fixed the waste collection time for quarantine homes, through special vehicle.

Total 76 number of safai bandus and two TATA ace are specially deployed for door to door waste collection and transportation in hotspot area for 3,158 houses with proper PPEs. After collecting the COVID 19 susceptible waste, it gets transferred to the Deen Dyal Upadhyay hospital for primary storage and its disposal as biomedical waste by Mesars Silkon Welfare Society. Waste collecting vehicles and bins used in hotspot area or quarantined home is disinfected through spray machine daily after collection of waste and VMC provides new collection bag to the quarantine home every day.



Fig-1. Distribution of polybag for waste storage in hotspot area



Fig-2. Collection of waste from hotspot area

Drones being used to disinfect Varanasi

Specially designed drones are being used to disinfect Varanasi. VMC has collaborated with Invest India to facilitate the use of drones for spraying disinfectant over large, crowded vulnerable urban areas by protecting city-dwellers from COVID-19 while reducing contact of health workers.



Fig-3. Drone being used for sanitization in VMC area

Orientation and Awareness sessions for VMC's sanitation workers

Since sanitation workers are playing an important role in fighting with Covid-19 pandemic. VMC conducted interactive sessions on safe working practices and proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the workers of the Waste Management Cell. VMC with the help of TATA Trust organized online conferences and training session for awareness about Covid-19 for sanitation inspectors and public.



Fig-4.Distribution of PPEs



Fig-5.Training of Safai Bandhu on use of PPEs

Sanitization of Hotspot area in Varanasi

VMC has given emphasis on sanitation of hotspot area to avoid spread of virus. For this VMC has been using different types of tools and techniques to disinfect. Fogging, hand spray and bullet machine are used to sanitize the hotspot area every day. VMC is also sanitizing the slum areas, public toilets and community toilets on daily basis to contain the virus.



Fig-6, Sanitizing area through spray



Fig-7.Senitizing the area through fogging machine.



Fig-8.Disinfected the door using hand spray sanitizer.

Varanasi Nagar Nigam Officials and Team

1. Ms. Mridula Jaiswal, Mayor, Varanasi Nagar Nigam
2. Mr. Gaurang Rathi (IAS), Municipal Commissioner, Varanasi Nagar Nigam
3. Mr. Anup Kumar, Additional Commissioner, Varanasi Nagar Nigam
4. Mr. Ajay Ram Singh, Executive Engineer, Varanasi Nagar Nigam
5. Mr. Surjeet Singh, SWM Expert, City Support Unit

VARANASI BECOMES A PART OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK

VMC has also Joined The Climate and Clean Air Coalition(CCAC) waste initiative and has become a member of global network of cities, working together to reduce GHG emissions. CCAC is a voluntary partnership of governments, intergovernmental organizations, businesses, scientific institutions and civil society organizations committed to improving air quality and protecting the climate through actions to reduce short-lived climate pollutants. The global network currently includes over 120 state and non- state partners, and hundreds of local actors carrying out activities across economic sectors. India is an official partner to CCAC since 2019.

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