

Varanasi bags top rank in smart cities' list for project execution

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Varanasi: In a remarkable feat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi has bagged the first position among the 100 smart cities of the country in project implementation on the basis of completed and progressive ongoing projects.

Bhopal is ranked second, followed by Surat on third and Ahmedabad on the fourth rung in the list. Two more cities from Uttar Pradesh are in the top 10 of the list, with Agra on seventh and Kanpur on eighth.

Varanasi municipal com-



SMART MAKEOVER: An illuminated Ganga ghat in Varanasi

missioner Gaurang Rathi told TOI on Saturday, "The city has won the distinction of getting top rank for performing well in the execution of development pro-

jects. The ranking has been done on the basis of completed projects and progress of ongoing projects."

► **Kanpur in top 10 too, P20**

Kanpur, Agra in list of top 10 cities too

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Varanasi Smart City Limited spokesperson Shakambhari Nandan Sonthalia told TOI, "The Union ministry of housing and urban affairs released the first quarter ranking of smart cities on Friday. As per the Geographical Management Information System (GMIS) data, other cities in the top 10 are Indore (fifth), Salem (sixth), Agra (seventh), Kanpur (eighth), Dehradun (ninth) and Davangere (10th)."

Varanasi was on 13th position in January 2020, and had jumped to the seventh position in August 2020 ranking list, he added. The development projects in Varanasi under the Smart City scheme have been going on at a fast pace and dedication.

At present, a total of 29 projects worth Rs 586 crore, including Godowlia multilevel parking, development of six model wards, redevelopment of Khidkiya Ghat, advance surveillance camera system for security, park and parking in Benla-bagh are in progress, while 16 projects worth Rs 261 crore have been completed and tenders issued for three projects worth Rs 157 crore.

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