



Shree Kashi Vishwanath Dham is Plastic-Free Zone

Why in News?

The **Shree Kashi Vishwanath Dham** in **Varanasi** was officially declared a **plastic-free zone** from **11th August 2025**.

Key Points

- **About:** A series of **measures were introduced to eliminate plastic** use within the temple premises, making it a model of sustainability and eco-friendliness.
- **Initiative and Ban:** Following a complete ban on **single-use plastics** ahead of the **Shravan month**, the authorities at **Kashi Vishwanath Dham** have also imposed a blanket ban on **plastic utensils** used for carrying **water, milk** for offerings, and **plastic baskets** used for carrying flowers and other worship materials.
- **Eco-Friendly Alternatives:** To support this initiative, **vendors** were provided with **eco-friendly baskets** made of **bamboo strips** and **stainless steel** along with other **metal utensils**.

Shree Kashi Vishwanath Temple

- **Location:** Varanasi, on the western bank of the **Ganga River**, India's holiest river.
- **Significance:**
- **Oldest surviving city and cultural capital of India.**
 - It enshrines the **Jyotirlinga of Shiva**, **Vishweshwara (Vishwanath)**, which is **one of the twelve Jyotirlingas**.
 - The temple has been a spiritual center for many great saints such as **Adi Shankaracharya**, **Ramkrishna Paramhansa**, **Swami Vivekananda**, **Goswami Tulsidas**, **Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati**, **Gurunanak**, etc.
- **Temple Construction:**
 - Built in **1780** by **Maharani Ahilya Bai Holkar** of **Indore**.
 - **Naubatkhana (Naqqar Khana)** was added in **1785** by **Collector Mohd. Ibrahim Khan** (at the behest of Governor General Warren Hastings).
 - In **1839**, **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** donated gold to cover two domes; the third dome remains uncovered.