

## **Swachh Varanasi**

The city of Varanasi is the historical cultural capital of India and one of the fastest growing cities in Uttar Pradesh and an international tourist destination. As in many of India's fast growing cities, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) management is a serious challenge for Varanasi. The City generates over 600 tons of municipal waste each day which is among its biggest health and environmental challenges.

Varanasi aims to become a Swachh and Smart city. To meet this goal, a tripartite agreement was signed on March 9th, 2016, between the Varanasi Nagar Nigam (VNN), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), and IL&FS Environmental Infrastructure & Services Ltd. (IL&FS Environment). The agreement envisages collection and transportation of MSW from fourteen wards of Varanasi City, covering a population of 110,000 citizens; The fourteen wards cover the important religious and commercial areas along the Ghats, except for the area within 100 meters from the bank of the river which is to be covered under the Clean Ganga Mission. The MSW will be collected from all households, commercial establishments, temples, markets in the service area. Street sweeping is also part of the scope of work.

The aim of this pilot project is to bring modern equipment and bins to ensure that there is efficiency in collection and transportation as well as no visible accumulation or spillage of waste at the collection and storage points. An information, education, and communication program will be put in place to sensitize the population with regards to avoidance of littering and the importance of segregation of waste.

VNN and MoUD are keen to replicate this demonstration project under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan based on IL&FS Environment's rich experience in the waste management sector. Operations and Maintenance of this innovative pilot project will be undertaken by IL&FS Environment. The Company has over 26 waste management mandates pan-India to manage over 4.4 million tons of MSW annually. IL&FS Environment has pioneered several best practices and benchmark projects in municipal solid waste management.

This pilot project will rejuvenate the City of Varanasi and be a significant contributor to the sustainable Sacred River Ganga. It will enable the City to reach its goal towards a *Swachh and Swasth Varanasi*.