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Vadodara Authorities Clamp Down on Illegal Construction Waste Dumping in Water Bodies

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The Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) has initiated a strong crackdown on the illegal dumping of construction and demolition (C&D) waste into the Vishwamitri River and other local water bodies, following repeated concerns from environmental experts and civil society groups.

The enforcement drive comes after an expert committee appointed by the Gujarat State Human Rights Commission informed the civic body of persistent violations along the riverbank. The committee, which has already submitted two reports and is preparing a third, urged the VMC to take swift and decisive action to prevent further ecological damage.

In response, VMC Commissioner Arun Mahesh Babu has directed officials to investigate identified dumping sites and take legal action against violators. The civic body reiterated that dumping C&D waste in rivers is prohibited and called on citizens to report such activities.

VMC officials highlighted that the city has designated collection points and transportation systems for debris, making illegal dumping entirely avoidable. Penalties will be imposed under the Environment (C&D Waste Management) Rules, 2025, against individuals and entities found in violation.

Environmental activists have long raised alarms about the impact of such dumping on the Vishwamitri River, which is home to fragile ecosystems and protected species. Past legal notices from the Gujarat Pollution Control Board also pointed to the VMC's non-compliance with waste management rules, especially in vulnerable river zones.

The crackdown is part of a broader civic initiative under Commissioner Mahesh Babu's leadership. Recent measures include deploying LED screens to publicly name individuals caught littering and intensifying surveillance around garbage dumping hotspots.

As the expert committee prepares its third report, further enforcement measures are expected. The VMC has urged the public to remain vigilant and cooperate in preserving the city's natural water bodies.