

Drive to decongest city from today

EFFORTS Admn to launch anti-encroachment drive, propose changes in UP Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973

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LUCKNOW: The state capital may soon get relief from traffic congestion as the district administration is set to launch a massive drive against encroachments from Tuesday.

The administration's efforts also include its proposal to the state government to make changes in the UP Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973 and creating traffic awareness among the masses by roping in students and parents.

"It's the need of the hour. The drive is going to be the biggest of its kind so far wherein FIRs would be lodged against encroachers," said district magistrate Raj Shekhar.

The LMC, traffic police, PWD, LDA and others will be active players in the drive to be carried out in all eight zones of the city.

As per the schedule, zone 6 (under Thakurganj police station area) will witness the drive on January 5. Encroachments from the Koneshwar temple crossing to Dubagga crossing would be razed.

Zone 7 would witness the drive on January 6. Encroachments would be removed in Indira Nagar sector 22 and on the stretch from Amrapali road to Barrel no.8 (under Ghazipur police circle).

Similarly, the other zones would witness the drives on January 7, 8 and later during the week.

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RAJ SHEKHAR, DM, Lucknow

The administration also plans to rope in students and parents to create traffic awareness among commuters. "This will be done through street plays and awareness workshops at public places, urging people to follow traffic rules," said Shekhar.

"We are also going to propose amendment in the UP Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973, under which LDA has been authorised to issue NoC to any constructing agency after finding all its building related norms up to the mark. But, the blatant issuance of NoCs to constructing agencies is becoming a major cause of congestion," said the DM.

He said the district administration would propose to make NoCs from other departments including LMC and traffic police mandatory as well.

"In many cases, it was observed that the builders were constructing apartments in densely populated areas, despite having no parking space. The amendment would be a buffer to all such things," he added.

FIRs AGAINST ENCROACHERS

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- The district administration would propose to make NoCs from other departments including LMC and traffic police mandatory, according to DM Raj Shekhar.



An encroachment drive underway in the city.

OPERATION IN ALL 8 ZONES OF CITY

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LUCKNOW: A research scholar working on a major project at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) threatened to resign following the humiliation he suffered at the hands of a security officer of the institute on Monday. According to eyewitness, security officer Hem Chandra Pandey allegedly slapped the scientist because he wanted to enter his department through the telemedicine department as it was close to his room.

The security officer not only manhandled the scientist but also repeatedly abused him despite being told that he was a scientist working at the institute. According to reports, the research scholar is a highly qualified scientist who recently returned from the US after completing his postdoctoral fellowship. His appointment at the institute happened through the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Involved in important research subjects, the scientist has threatened to resign after this incident. Reportedly, he has decided to take up the matter with the director through his head of department, who is currently on leave.

Meanwhile insiders informed that the security officer in question is known for bad behaviour. Other scientists working at PGI have also expressed disapproval at the treatment meted out to the

VICTIMS OF MISBEHAVIOUR

- Attendants of patients have also alleged misbehaviour by security men on several occasions.
- It may be noted that despite the institute revamping its security project every year, thefts keep taking place inside PGI's campus.

research scholar. They said that if the scientist was not carrying his identity card, the security officer should have called up the department to check and that there could be no justification behind the beating.

Chief medical superintendent at SGPGIMS, Prof PK Singh said he had no knowledge of the incident. "I will conduct an inquiry into the allegations and action would be taken if anyone is found guilty of misbehaviour towards the research scholars," he said.

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One-way traffic in Ganj from tomorrow

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LUCKNOW: From Wednesday, one-way traffic system will be enforced in Hazratganj on a trial basis. However, no restrictions have been imposed on movement of vehicles from Mayfair tri-section towards Parivartan Chowk.

According to the new traffic plan, no vehicle coming from Mahanagar will be allowed to move towards Saharaganj from Sikanderbagh crossing.

Commuters will have to take a right turn from Sapru Marg

NO VEHICLE COMING FROM MAHANAGAR WILL BE ALLOWED TO MOVE TOWARDS GANJ MALL FROM THE SIKANDERBAGH CROSSING

crossing towards Dunlop tri-section. From this crossing, commuters will have to take a right turn to reach Saharaganj.

From Saharaganj tri-section, no vehicle will be allowed to move towards SSP office and Sapru Marg. From the SSP

office, no vehicle will be allowed to move towards St Francis' College, Bank of India tri-section and Alka tri-section. Commuters will have to take the Saharaganj tri-section road.

Vehicles from Valmiki crossing will have to take the Mayfair tri-section road to reach Lalbagh.

From the Lalbagh crossing, no vehicle will be allowed to move towards Mayfair tri-section.

Commuters will have to take Valmiki Marg and Capital tri-section route to reach Hazratganj. From the Bank of India tri-section, near St Francis' College, no vehicle will be allowed to move

towards Naval Kishore Road, Lila Cinema and Ashok Marg. Commuters will have to take the Saharaganj road to reach Ashok Marg.

Earlier in July last year, to ensure smooth traffic flow, especially when schools get over, the district administration had forced schools in Hazratganj area to go in for staggered timing, i.e to break at different timings to reduce the traffic. Besides, educational institutions were also asked to ensure that all vans ferrying students were parked on their campuses 15 minutes before school got over.

NBRI's green guide to help check pollution

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LUCKNOW: Scientists at National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) have prepared a complete plantation guide for various states of the country, depending on climatic conditions and pollution levels.

"It provides details of trees that should be selected for roadsides, dividers and green belts so as to minimise pollution levels," said Nandita Singh, principal scientist, NBRI.

The guide has been prepared as part of plants and pollution project in association with the ministry of environment and forest. The website nbrienviis.nic.in also provides details about pollution indicators, utility of plants etc.

She added that the right selection could help check air and noise pollution levels. Vehicular pollution on roads, indoor pollution and emission of gases from industries can be checked to some extent if it is surrounded by the right kinds of plants, feel experts.

HT brings a lowdown on the useful information in the guide.

ROADSIDE PLANTATION

NBRI experts say that plants selected for roadsides must be pollution tolerant and have good dust-capturing capability. They must have larger leaf area and should have strong roots so that they do not fall off easily.

WAYS TO REDUCE INDOOR POLLUTION

MAJOR CAUSES: Air conditioners, air coolers/blowers, furniture varnishes, adhesives wall paints, enamels, detergents, floor cleaning liquids, grocery bags, carpets, particleboard, paper towels.

SUITABLE INDOOR PLANTS

- ARECA PALM** - known as a natural humidifier
- BAMBOO PALM** - second-best in air purifying
- RUBBER PLANT** - requires minimal light and removes formaldehyde that is particularly found in grocery bags, carpets, particleboard and paper towels.
- DRACAENA** - leader in removal of formaldehyde
- PEACE LILY** - needs abundant water but is good at removing benzene that is found in plastics, dyes, rubber, detergents and causes irritation for skin and eyes.
- GERBERA DAISY** - are cheerful flowers, available in a variety of colours and help remove benzene and trichloroethylene from air that is usually found in inks, solvents and paints.

Trees like eucalyptus and peepal even have noise capturing capability and thus help reduce noise pollution.

However, experts suggest that eucalyptus must not be planted on the roads as they have weak roots. Plantation on the roadside must be done keeping in mind the utility factors of the trees. It must also be noted that those plants are selected that do not require much care and are fit for local climatic conditions.

Suitable divider plants include neem, satwin, peepal,

sheesham, babool, tarmarind (imli), cadamba and jungle jalebli.

DIVIDER PLANTS

Selection of plants for dividers must be done keeping in mind their size, their dust-capturing capability and their beauty. Medium-size plants must be selected for dividers and the selection should include colourful flowering plants so as to add to the beauty of the roads.

Suitable divider plants include kaner, bottlebrush, China Rose, Chandni, Bougainvillea and

Harshingar

GREENBELT PLANTATION

Trees chosen for industrial areas must be resistant to pollution. While planting trees in such areas, it must be kept in mind that there is plantation at various levels of the roads and the trees are planted in the opposite direction of the wind. This is to ensure reduction in the pollution levels of the area, according to experts. Suggested plants for the greenbelt are Eucalyptus, Harshingar, Khajoor, Sheesham, Maharukha and Satwin.

Rail underpass in Chowk likely to be operational by Jan 20

LUCKNOW: The rail underpass (RUP) near Scientific Convention centre in Chowk is likely to get operational by January 20, claim Railways and district administration officials.

Though several deadlines have been missed in the past, district authorities say this time it would be met as things are looking up for the project and work is on in full swing now.

Authorities had earlier claimed that the underpass would be operational by December 20. The project was delayed due to some operational issues, said a Railways official.

Commuters had been facing problems due to the delay in the project. The lone bridge road near the convention centre usually remains choked with traffic and many a time even ambulances are caught in the jam.

Though the state government was quick to transfer its land for the underpass, Railways was not able to complete the underpass even after 18 months, said officials of the administration.

The district magistrate said the underpass was handed over to the PWD on December 10 instead of November 25 as promised by the Railways so there has been a slight delay in making it operational.

Construction of the underpass would ensure free flow of traffic from Old City areas to Hazratganj. **HTC**

Air-o-bike among '10 best inventions'

LUCKNOW: Veteran city scientist, Professor Bharat Raj Singh is on cloud nine these days, as his first compressed air powered bike continues to earn praise both in India and abroad. The amazing Air-o-bike that Prof Singh, director, School of Management Sciences, Lucknow has invented, has already found a place in the Limca Book of Records - 2014 and 2015 editions in the consecutive last two years.

Recently, a TV channel included his invention in the list of the best 10 innovations with the title 'Bharat ki Shaan, Make in India ki Pehchan and Skill India ki Jaan'. "I'm happy that my invention found a place on the list of the best 10 inventions of 2015," the professor said.

Out of 130 innovations across the country, the channel selected the best 10 innovations and aired them on the programme 'Shabash



The air-o-bike.

India' on Sunday in the last week of December - 2015 which was watched both by the people of India and abroad. Bharat Raj Singh of School of Management Sciences, Lucknow and Prof Onkar Singh of Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur, UP developed an air turbine engine with capacity to generate 5.5 HP (4.1 kW) power by using compressed air as fuel.

The air engine measuring 100 mm in outer casing diameter, 75 mm in rotor diameter and 35 mm in width can run a motor bike for 40 minutes using compressed air at 4-6 bar (60-90 psi) pressure. The load test conducted in the lab showed that the engine runs at 2000-3000 rpm with load and 10,000 rpm without load. The unique zero emission air engine featured in Patent Journal of Government of India on April 13, 2012. Air-O-Bike was also exhibited before the President of India in Lucknow on May 10, 2013.

PAPER ON GLOBAL WARMING

Prof Singh's current research paper on global warming has laid a big challenge for the world, saying that the Earth's rotation speed would get slower by the end of the century and likely change of rotation angle of the Earth would pose a grave threat to the living creatures. **HTC**

Innovation Hub dedicated to people at RSC

LUCKNOW: Innovation Hub was dedicated to people at the Regional Science City on Monday by Dr CS Nautiyal, Director, NBRI.

In his address, Dr Nautiyal said that there were a lot of problems and challenges in society and solutions may be found through new techniques and innovations carried out by young students. He also said for school students, this Innovation Hub was a prime place to do something new.

This Innovation Hub will work on all days except national holidays. Students can take annual membership and schools can also visit on working days in groups to get acquainted with the facility. **HTC**

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EYEING GUINNESS

Hanuman collections bring Limca laurel for city man

LUCKNOW: Ever seen a coin as old as that of 1214 or 1818 with a picture of Lord Hanuman inscribed on it? Krishna Kumar Chaurasia, a resident of Chowk in the state capital, has a huge collection of such rare artifacts, literature, and pictures related to the Lord in his museum, which has earned him a place in the Limca Book of Records.

Chaurasia, 54, has beaten his own record of last year with an addition of nearly 2,000 documents, pictures and idols of the Lord in his collection. "Last year, I had 3,000 items on Lord Hanuman but this year I have about 5,000 items which have been collected from different parts of India," he says. Chaurasia says he has about 26,000 pieces of art-work, information, papers, artifacts etc on Lord Hanuman. But only 5,000 of them have been displayed in his museum.

Owner of a mobile phone shop in Baan Wali Gali of Chowk, Chaurasia's collection also includes some idols of Hanuman which have as many as seven, eight, nine and eleven faces respectively. "Generally Hanuman idols have a single face and some with five faces are also com-



Krishna Kumar Chaurasia with his collections on Hanuman. DEEPAK HUPTA/HT

mon. But those with seven and above faces are rare and hard to find," he says.

Chaurasia not only collects objects related to the Lord but also makes Hanuman idols with his own imagination. "I have made an idol which is rarest of its kind. I have made Hanuman standing on Lord Shiva's argha - the structure on which the 'Shivling' is generally placed. I have named this idol as Shankar Swayam Kesari Nandan," he says.

Kumar also has a rich collection of books about the Lord. "You ask me anything about Lord Hanuman and I would reply. My hunger to collect more items about the Lord would never end and I would continue to search till my last breath," says Chaurasia, who is now eyeing for the Guinness world record. **HTC**

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