

PM on virtual trip, announces 'clean Gomti drive'

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PRIME MINISTER Atal Behari Vajpayee today expressed his concern over the rising pollution level in Gomti and said the Centre would provide all assistance in cleaning up the river. He said a 'clean-Gomti campaign' would be launched soon and financial assistance from the Centre has been cleared in this regard.

Mr Vajpayee was talking 'virtually' to the people of his constituency through video-conferencing at the new LDA office in Gominagar. This was the PM's first 'virtual' visit after his knee operation.

Gram pradhans, members kshetra and gram panchayat, farmers, heads of samudayik vikas samitis (community development committees), NGOs and corporators, all waited patiently to have a dia-



PM AB Vajpayee interacts with people of his constituency during a virtual dialogue session in Lucknow on Saturday. Photo: Raju Tiwari

logue with 'Atalji'. Exactly at 11.30 am, the Prime Minister arrived sans the cavalcade and his SPG guards. In his 25-minute dialogue

with the people of his constituency, the Prime Minister declared that he would ensure that more academic institutions, especially for the

I'm fit and will visit Lucknow soon: Atal

"I AM very much on my own legs," the Prime Minister quipped as the people of his constituency inquired about his health. He informed that his knee surgery was successful. "Normally when one falls sick, people tend to believe that the person concerned is not going to survive. I wish to assure you that I am hale and hearty and would try to visit Lucknow soon," he said amidst laughter. The Prime Minister also stressed on the need to continue this 'virtual' dialogue.

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girls, are established in rural areas. He also said more primary health education centres would be set up in rural areas of the State capital.

The Prime Minister promised to visit Lucknow soon and said that 50 people from his constituency would be invited to attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi.

Sushil Kumar Singh, pradhan of Bagha village in Bakshi Ka Talab and president of the gram pradhans' association initiated the dialogue and urged the Prime Minister to improve the academic standards in villages.

He thanked the PM for implementing the Panchayati Raj system and for bringing Lucknow under the Paiy Jal Nidhi Yojana (drinking water fund scheme).

Vimla Devi, pradhan of Bharwara village in Chinhat stressed on opening schools for girls in her area and for proper link roads. The PM patiently listened to her and then said that women should come forward and lead from the front.

Kunwar Bhupendra Singh from

Mal invited the PM to his village and the PM accepted the offer. Mr Prabhakar Sinha, running an NGO, Ankur, raised the issue of providing security to street children. Corporator Mahendra Singh requested the PM to provide basic amenities in the villages.

The Prime Minister assured all, saying that the resources were limited but the Government would try to solve the problems of every one. "The Government is aware of all your problems but then the society needs to realise that we do not have unlimited resources," h

e said. Prime Minister urged that the people should try to take advantage of new developments in IT, especially in the education and health sectors. However, many like Nanhu Sinha, farmer and others had to return back dejected as they were unable to talk to their MP who is now the PM.