

EASTERN CHRONICLE

Guwahati, Thursday, July 28, 2016

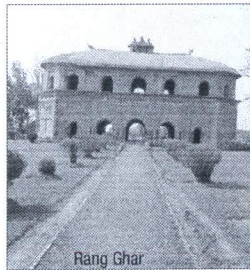
No takers for Swachh Paryatan mobile app in Assam

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Guwahati: Swachh Paryatan mobile app was launched this year by Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture Mahesh Sharma on February 22. The app was launched with an aim to keep heritage sites in India clean. Rang Ghar in Sivasagar is among the 25 heritage sites selected under the Swachh Paryatan scheme's Adarsh Smarak list. But, sadly, in Assam, nobody is even aware about this app and

there are no takers.

The Swachh Paryatan app lays down the rule that if someone sees garbage at any of the 25 *adarsh smarak* (historical monuments) protected and maintained by the Archaeological Survey India (ASI), the individual just has to click a picture of the place and upload it on the Swachh Paryatan app. It is then the responsibility of the concerned ASI nodal officer to ensure that the garbage is cleared within 24 hours and to inform the complainant



Cleanliness: People in Assam 'not conscious'

MK Chauley, superintending archaeologist, ASI, Guwahati Circle, said, "Either tourists or the general public are not uploading any kind of picture in this app from Assam. Rang Ghar has been included in the app. It is a sad state of affairs. People in Assam are not at all conscious about cleanliness"

about the progress through this app. If the historical site is not cleaned within 24 hours, strict action would be taken against the nodal officer.

Speaking to *EC*, Milan Kumar Chauley, superintending archaeologist, ASI, Guwahati Circle, said, "Either tourists or the general public are not uploading any kind of picture in this app from Assam. Rang Ghar has been included in the app. It is a sad state of affairs. People in Assam are not at all conscious

about cleanliness and the need to protect our heritage monuments. But we are also short of manpower to take care of these monuments. If the people of the State do not want to support this cleanliness initiative, then there is very little we can do about it."

Chauley further added, "The whole idea behind this mobile app launch is to ensure that people do not litter places of historical importance." The other historical monuments in the Northeast - Kachari

Ruins in Dimapur, Vangchhia in Mizoram, Unakoti in Tripura and Nartiang in Meghalaya will soon find a place in the Adarsh Smarak list.

The mobile app was launched to facilitate people to send pictures of heritage sites which they find littered or dirty so that the concerned ministry can take immediate action to clean up the place.

The mobile app is being monitored by the Project Monitoring Unit of Swachh Bharat Mission in Ministry of Tourism.