

ASI launches guidebooks in Braille

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Guwahati: A Braille guidebook on monuments, the first of its kind to be printed and published by any circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), was released by governor PB Acharya on Saturday.

Besides the guidebook, which deals with the monuments of Sivasagar, other Braille brochures on Sonitpur, Tripura and Charaideo Maidam, all published and translated by the Guwahati circle of ASI, were released by the governor on Saturday.

The initiative aims at helping visually-impaired tourists get access to information about the monuments in the aforementioned places. They



Governor PB Acharya releases three ASI brochures in Guwahati

will also be available at the sites of the monuments.

Acharya termed the effort an important one and said the onus should be on the preservation of iconic monuments that are slowly vanishing. He would extend help towards

any effort for preservation of monuments here, he added.

"We should work towards preservation of monuments in the northeast. I urge the Guwahati Circle of ASI to complete booklets on all monuments," said Acharya.

All the Braille guidebooks have been printed at the government Braille printing press in the city.

The Guwahati Circle has 80 centrally-protected monuments and sites under its jurisdiction. Of these, 55 are in Assam, three in Arunachal Pradesh, one in Manipur, eight in Meghalaya, four in Nagaland, eight in Tripura and one in Mizoram.

"This is a noble initiative since visually-impaired tourists cannot access iconic monuments otherwise. Through this, they will be able to learn about them. In return, they will be able to spread the message among their peers," said Milan Kumar Chauley, superintending archaeologist, Guwahati Circle of ASI.