

Rao shows the way to keep city clean

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LUCKNOW

To keep the city clean, the officials concerned should be pro-active and should monitor the work of safai workers and supervisors on daily basis. This is what senior IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, SR Rao, who is credited with cleaning Surat after plague, suggests.

The suggestion is for the nagar nigam officials whose apathy towards their duties has turned Lucknow and its neighbouring city Kanpur virtually into garbage dumps. Heaps and heaps of garbage emitting acrid smell, with pigs and stray dogs loitering around, is a common sight in these cities.

"We are doing our best to clean up the city," says Lucknow Nagar Nigam's Municipal Commissioner Shailaish Kumar Singh.

But Singh's best is not "the best" in the eyes of Rao. His mantra to clean the city is simple: The senior officials should come out as early as seven in the morning and supervise cleaning work for at least three to five hours. The officer should reach the office only after the city has been cleaned up.

As cleaning a city involves people, create awareness among the masses. Ask the residents to cooperate with the district administration in keeping the city clean. "Schoolchildren can be of great help in spreading the message of cleanliness. Therefore, special awareness campaigns should be organised in schools



and colleges," Rao says.

Rao, who is Additional Secretary in the Union Ministry of Information Technology, is lapped up by officials. Principal Secretary (Urban Development) Alok Ranjan says: "This is correct. If an officer is in the field for three hours in the morning it will have an inspiring effect on his subordinates."

Former Municipal Commissioner of Surat, Rao, has been credited with changing the plague-hit, rat-infested, unhygienic and disorganised Surat city into one that was

declared as the second cleanest city of the country by INTACH in the late 1990's.

Rao's wise words have impressed officials as Kanpur Nagar Nigam has now decided to involve non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and locals in keeping the city clean.

"Children are the best medium to educate citizens about sanitation. The Nagar Nigam would run campaigns in schools and ask children to keep their surroundings clean and communicate this message to their parents too," says Kanpur Municipal

Commissioner Raghendra Vikram Singh.

Similar awareness drive would be organised in factories and among traders also. "We are already cleaning the city from morning. But from now on we will intensify the supervision work," Singh adds.

Lucknow Municipal Commissioner SK Singh says: "We have already started cleaning the city. But we have to create awareness among Lucknowites on how to keep their surroundings clean."

(Under the aegis of CSE Media Fellowship).