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Govt takes serious note of non-submission of annual returns under RTI Act by CPIOs

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are not submitting Annual Returns under Section 25 of the RTI Act, a matter which has been viewed with serious concern by the authorities, the Commissioner Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department said.

Accordingly, he has enjoined upon all CPIOs of various departments, their subordinate/field offices, Corporations, Boards and PSUs to register themselves and submit quarterly returns on the designated portal by or before June 30, 2023. Lapses, if any, shall be the personal responsibility of the CPIO concerned, the Government has made it clear.

As per the provisions of the RTI Act, each report shall state in respect of the year to which the report relates the number of requests made to each Public Authority; the number of decisions where applicants were not entitled to access to the documents pursuant to the requests; the provisions of this Act under which these decisions were made and the number of times such provisions were invoked; the number of appeals

referred to the Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be, for review, the nature of the appeals and the outcome of the appeals; particulars of any disciplinary action taken against any officer in respect of the administration of this Act; the amount of charges collected by each Public Authority under this Act; any facts which indicate an effort by the Public Authorities to administer and implement the spirit and intention of this Act and recommendations for reform, including recommendations in respect of the particular public authorities, for the development, Improvement, modernization, reform or amendment to this Act or other legislation or common law or any other matter relevant for operationalizing the right to access information.

It is pertinent to mention here that information is the currency of democracy and the Right to Information Act, 2005 in addition to fostering citizen-empowerment and eradicating corruption, envisages a robust mechanism for monitoring of all Public Authorities by the Central Information Commission.

5 mild earthquakes jolt Doda-Kishtwar; no loss reported, schools closed

intensity of 4.3 was recorded at 2.20 am in Doda and its epicenter was at a depth of 10 km.

This was followed by two more earthquakes in Doda district with an intensity of 2.8 at 2.41 am with epicenter at a depth of 10 km and the one with intensity of 3.5 at 7.56 am with epicenter at a depth of 10 km.

When contacted, Vishesh Mahajan, Deputy Commissioner Doda informed: "Small tremors, which we may say aftershocks, were felt in Doda."

He said that some schools in the district have been closed as a precautionary measure.

"Schools in Thathri Zone, Gandoh Zone and Bhadarwah Zone were closed as a precautionary measure as these fall in risk prone areas," Mahajan maintained adding: "Directions have been given to the concerned Chief Education Officers (CEOs) to conduct safety audits for the school buildings which have suffered damages."

SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmed Poswal informed: "Tremors were felt at night and in morning in Kishtwar but there was no fresh

report about any damage."

He said that instructions are there for the public to remain alert and shift out of houses to safe places in case tremors are felt.

"In case of any eventuality the people are asked to report to the nearest police post or police picket and cops will provide all possible support while the cops have been put on alert mode in the district," the SSP said.

Sources in district administration Kishtwar informed that 359 Kacha structures were partially damaged while 44 suffered severe damages in the district.

They further said that 30 Pucca structures were partially damaged, 12 suffered severe damage while 9 cattle sheds along with 71 government buildings including schools suffered damages in Kishtwar.

"As a precautionary step all the schools falling under Dhrabshalla Zone in Kishtwar were closed," sources informed. DC Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav today visited most areas of Dhrabshala and Bojnwah which were hit by earthquake and took stock of the situation and damage caused to various structures including educational institutions.

Mohita Sharma, SSP Ramban when contacted said that all was normal in Ramban.

Traffic Police personnel not accepting Virtual Driving License, RC on DigiLocker

ments to be impounded, the enforcement agencies can have such impounding reflected in the VAHAN/SARATHI database electronically through the eChallan system and there is no requirement of physical seizure of such documents.

Accordingly, the Ministry had directed for considering documents available in the electronic form in the DigiLocker platform or the mParivahan mobile app as valid under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 and be treated at par with the certificates issued by the transport authorities.

However, directives of two Union Ministry are not being taken seriously by the Traffic Police personnel in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir thereby putting public to undue harassment and inconvenience. During the past quite long time, the office of the Transport Commissioner J&K was receiving complaints in this regard from the public.

Taking serious note of the same, the Transport Commissioner has written a letter to the Inspector General of Police Traffic J&K seeking his intervention in the implementation of

directives of two Union Ministries. Pointing towards the communication of Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology, the Transport Commissioner Rahul Sharma said, "in pursuance to the letter of the Union Ministry, this office vide Letter No.TC/JK/MV/3074-76 dated October 21, 2021 has issued circular that the documents on DigiLocker and mParivahan mobile apps of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India are legally recognized documents at par with the original documents as per the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000".

"However, still complaints are pouring that enforcement agencies are not considering these documents and still insisting on hard copies of the documents. In this context, it is requested to issue order/instructions to down below in your organization directing all the concerned to honour Virtual Driving License and Registration Certificate etc on the DigiLocker and mParivahan mobile apps", read the letter of the Transport Commissioner to Inspector General of Police Traffic J&K.

Top jurists to visit Jammu, hoist tricolor at Lal Chowk

Jammu and Dogra Law College and members of J&K High Court Bar Association in Jammu on June 16.

The delegation will meet Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, Director-General of Police, Dilbag Singh Lt-General Upendra Dwivedi, Northern Army Commander, Udhampur; GOC, Corps Commander 15,

Srinagar and AOC, Air Force, Srinagar.

Dr. Aggarwala has co-authored, along with American author Ms. Elisabeth Horan, a book — Narendra Modi — Harbinger of Prosperity & Apostle of World Peace. He is also co-author (with British author Ms. Sarah J Marchington) of another book — Narendra Modi — A Charismatic & Visionary Statesman.

LAB, KDA announce 6-member delegation to meet MoS Home

They said they will take up four point agenda during the talks including full-fledged Statehood for Ladakh, Constitutional Safeguards under Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, early recruitment process and Public Services Commission (PSC) for Ladakh and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

Earlier this month, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had invited LAB and KDA for talks in New Delhi on June 19.

This is after 21 months that stalled dialogue between MHA with LAB and KDA is being resumed. Last official talks between MHA and representatives of the two bodies were held in Leh on August 29, 2021. Union Ministry of State for Home Nityanand Rai had held the talks.

Nityanand Rai, who heads High Powered Committee (HPC) on Ladakh issues, will lead the talks

along with senior officers of the Home Ministry dealing with Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh Affairs. However, it will not be the HPC meeting as initially the MHA will talk to six representatives from Ladakh and if the agenda is finalized, the HPC meeting may be called.

Rai had last held meeting with LAB and KDA during his visit to Leh on August 29, 2021 and assured constitution of a Committee for further talks. Though backchannel talks were held on some occasions between MHA representatives and senior LAB leader, it was on January 4, 2023 that the MHA formally set up the High Powered Committee headed by Rai which drew flak from LAB and KDA as in its agenda their major demands like Statehood and Sixth schedule status to Ladakh were missing.

Both the organizations had announced boycott of the HPC.

No benefit of Oppn unity ahead of 2024 LS polls: Azad

"But unfortunately, each opposition party has nothing in other states than their own. It would have been beneficial if two-three parties had formed governments (in an alliance) in the states.

"There will be no difference whether there is a pre-poll or a post-poll alliance. They will get the same number of seats in a pre-poll alliance as well as in a post-poll alliance. I see higher chances of an alliance in the post-election scenario," he said.

The ground situation is such that if the opposition parties win 300 seats in a pre-poll alliance, they would get the same number of seats even if there was no alliance, the former Congress leader added.

He credited the leadership of the Congress in various states to the party's recent electoral triumphs.

"I have said the Congress has suffered losses at the Centre, not in the states. Wherever there is a strong state leadership, the party is

bouncing back. The only difference is that previously, the central leadership used to run the states and now, the state leadership runs the central leadership.

"The central leadership has lost ground, but the state leaders are defending their turf. So, there is zero truth if someone says the Congress is winning the state elections because of the central leadership," Azad said.

He demanded compensation for the losses incurred due to an earthquake in Doda district of the Jammu region.

"We have information that in Gundooh and Bhaderwah tehsils, some schools, hospitals and houses have suffered damage. It is a matter of concern. We hope that there are no more tremors.

"I request the government to organise classes for the students outside and not inside the school buildings. Similarly, at hospitals, patients in a critical condition should be placed where there has been no impact of the quake," Azad said. (PTI)

Ammunition recovered



Ammunition recovered in Nowshera on Wednesday. —Excelsior/Imran

WEATHER

JAMMU:
Light rain/Thunder showers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 38.8 Degree C
Min: 25.9 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 58.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 36.0 per cent
Sunset on Thursday: 07.40 p.m.
Sunrise on Friday: 05.25 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Light rain/Thunder showers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 27.5 Degree C
Min: 15.2 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 71.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 36.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 21.0 Degree C
Min: 7.2 Degree C

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CINEMA

APRS AUDI 1: 1. MAURH (PUNJABI) - 10.00 AM, 1.00 PM, 4.00 PM, 7.00 PM.
APRS AUDI 2: 1. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE (HINDI) - 10.30 AM, 1.30 PM, 4.40 PM, 7.30 PM.
HARI THEATRE: ALIENS 2042 - 10.00 AM, 12.30 PM, 3.30 PM, 6.30 PM.
PVR KC AUDI 1: 1. MEDAL (PUNJABI) - 10.30 AM, 2. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE (HINDI) - 01.30 PM, 5. MEDAL (PUNJABI) - 4.30 PM, 4. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE (HINDI) - 07.30 PM, 5. MAURH (PUNJABI) - 10.30 PM.
PVR KC AUDI 2: 1. (3D) TRANSFORMERS - HINDI - 11.00 AM, 2. FAST X - HINDI 3D - 01.55 PM, 3. (3D) TRANSFORMERS - ENG - 4.55 PM, 4. SPIDER MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER VERSE - ENG. (HARI) - 07.55 PM, 5. (3D) TRANSFORMERS - ENG - 10.15 PM, 6. MEDAL - PUNJABI (UJA) 10.45 PM.
WAVE CINEMA AUDI 1: TRANSFORMERS RISE OF THE BEASTS 3 D HINDI (UJA) - 10.00 AM, 2. TRANSFORMERS RISE OF THE BEASTS 3 D HINDI (UJA) - 12.30 PM, 3. GOODAY GODDAY CHA (PUNJABI) (UJA) - 3.05 PM, 4. TRANSFORMERS RISE OF THE BEASTS 3 D HINDI (UJA) - 5.40 PM, 5. TRANSFORMERS RISE OF THE BEASTS 3 D ENG (UJA) - 8.15 PM, 6. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE (UJA) - 10.50 PM.
WAVE CINEMA AUDI 2: 1. MAURH (PUNJABI) (UJA) - 9.25 AM, 2. MEDAL PUNJABI (UJA) - 12.15 PM, 3. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE (UJA) - 3.05 PM, 4. GOODAY GODDAY CHA (PUNJABI) (UJA) 5.40 PM, 5. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE (UJA) 8.10 PM, 6. MEDAL - PUNJABI (UJA) 10.45 PM.
WAVE CINEMA AUDI 3: 1. SPIDER MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER VERSE - HINDI (UJA) - 11.00 AM, 2. MAURH - PUNJABI (UJA) - 1.50 PM, 3. FAST X - HINDI 3D (UJA) - 4.45 PM, 4. MAURH PUNJABI (UJA) - 7.40 PM, 10.30 PM.
PLATINUM CINEMA AUDI 1: 1. (3D) TRANSFORMERS - HINDI - 10.20 PM, 2. (3D) TRANSFORMERS - ENG - 12.40 PM, 3. (2D) SPIDER MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER VERSE - ENG - 3.00 PM, 4. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE - 5.30 PM, 5. (3D) TRANSFORMERS - ENG - 7.50 PM, 6. (3D) FAST X - ENGLISH (3D) - 10.05 PM.
PLATINUM CINEMA AUDI 2: 1. MAURH (PUNJABI) - 10.00 AM, 2. MEDAL - (PUNJABI) - 3.20 PM, 3. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE - 3.00 PM, 4. MEDAL - (PUNJABI) - 05.20 PM, 5. GADAR - (HINDI) - 7.50 PM, 6. MAURH (PUNJABI) - 10.45 PM.
PLATINUM CINEMA AUDI 3: 1. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE - 11.00 AM, 1.20 PM, 2. THE KERALA STORY (HINDI) - 3.40 PM, 3. MAURH (PUNJABI) - 6.05 PM, 4. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE - 8.30 PM, 6. MEDAL - (PUNJABI) - 10.50 PM.
INDIA AUDI 1: 1. (3D) TRANSFORMERS (HINDI) - 10.00 AM, 12.20 PM, 2. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE - 2.45 PM, 3. (3D) TRANSFORMERS (HINDI) - 5.15 PM, 4. MAURH (PUNJABI) - 7.35 PM, 5. (3D) TRANSFORMERS (HINDI) - 10.15 PM.
INDIA AUDI 2: 1. MAURH (PUNJABI) - 9.50 AM, 2. MEDAL (PUNJABI) - 12.25 PM, 3. MAURH (PUNJABI) - 3.10 PM, 4. MEDAL (PUNJABI) - 5.40 PM, 5. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE - 8.20 PM, 6. MAURH (PUNJABI) - 10.40 PM.
INDIA AUDI 3: 1. ZARA HATKE ZARA BACHKE - 11.00 AM, 2. GADAR (HINDI) 1.45 PM, 3. MAURH (PUNJABI) - 4.45 PM, 4. GOODAY GODDAY CHA - 7.25 PM, 5. MEDAL (PUNJABI) - 9.50 PM.
MOONLIGHT CINPLEX (KATHUA) - MAURH (PUNJABI) - 10.00 AM, 01.00 PM, 04.00 PM, 07.00 PM

Edited, Printed, Published by Kamal Rohmetra and owned by Daily Excelsior. Executive Editor Neeraj Rohmetra. Printed at Daily Excelsior and Excelsior Printer Pvt Ltd, Janipura, Jammu and published from EXCELSIOR HOUSE, Janipura, Jammu 180007 (J&K). Phones: 0191-2537055, 2537901, 2539178. Fax: 0191-2537831 and 2530272 Editor's Residence: 0191-2431830, 2433288. E-mail: editor@dailyexcelsior.com. Advertisement Managers Mohan Lal 9419187956, Mukesh Kaushal 941911428. For Advertisement queries: advt@dailyexcelsior.com (M) 941911428. Residence Nos: Jammu Bureau Chief: Sanjeev Pargal (94191-80969), Special Correspondents: Mohinder Verma (9419185803), Gopal Sharma (9419180803), Avtar Bhat (9419142184), Nishikant Khajuria (9419143132), Srinagar Office: 2 Pratap Park Srinagar. Phone: (O) 0194-2450213, New Delhi Bureau Chief (Advt) : C.S. Paul 9810068545, 9910997733 (M), 011-23327188 (O), 3/15, INS Building, Rafi Marg, Mumbai Advertisement Office Incharge: K.S. Nitin 9322509953 (M) 022-22883904, 22821859 (O) 22845484 (Fax) C/o S. J. Business Centre, Islam Building Room No. 17/18, 1st Floor, 46 Veer Nariman Road.

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TN Minister held in cash for jobs scam

Chief Minister M K Stalin questioned the need for a long probe even after Balaji assured full cooperation to the investigation, and sought to know if such an "inhumane action" by the ED sleuths was warranted.

Balaji was part of the AIADMK during the period of crime (2014-15) and was the Transport minister then.

After his formal arrest at around 1.30 am today, the DMK leader complained of chest pain

and was admitted to a government hospital, where he was advised to undergo a bypass surgery at the earliest.

He later moved a city court seeking permission to be shifted to a private hospital here for further treatment and also applied for interim bail.

Balaji was arrested after a long session of questioning, official sources said. A local court later sent him to judicial custody till June 28. (PTI)

BJP will be wiped out in J&K: Omar

want elections to happen here because her party will be wiped out from here and their address will not be found here. I know her very well, and it is a secondary thing that I am not saying anything and respect her for being a woman," he said.

Omar said that BJP is shying away from elections because they fear defeat both in Kashmir and Jammu.

"They should stop making nonsense things. The truth is, if they were in a better position, elections would have taken place here. Why is the BJP running away from elections? Because they know they will face losses in both Jammu and in Kashmir. If they have the courage, let them hold Assembly elections along with the Parliamentary elections," he added.

Omar said that the BJP does not want to hold Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir as they are enjoying power without elections.

"Let me tell you one thing if they want to conduct Parliamentary polls here, why not Assembly elections? The whole world would like to know what injustice is happening here so that you can make preparations for Urban Local Bodies, DDC, and Parliamentary elections, but not the Assembly elections. Because the people who have become kings, their addresses will not be found here, and that is why they are scared

and running away from elections. Our biggest misfortune is that they have attained power without fighting elections, and that is why they are ruling us. Let there be elections, and then I will see what they will do," he said.

When asked about arrest of Tamil Nadu opposition leader by the ED, Omar said such tactics is being adopted by the BJP across the country.

"Can you tell me which State is not experiencing such actions, or which opposition party has not faced it? This is a cost we bear for engaging in politics here, and the way the Minister was treated, we condemn it. As per medical reports, his three arteries are blocked, and he needs bypass surgery. The way he was being pushed and treated, the Central Government and the agencies should reflect on their behavior," he said.

When asked about the anti-Muslim film "70-Hoorian", Omar said: "Are we so weak that making one or two films will impact our religion? This is a well-thought-out conspiracy of these people, and as the Parliamentary elections draw near, they will increase such acts. But we have to act smartly and bravely against these conspiracies with a right-minded approach, and we should never show that we are either terrified or have become weak due to these films. Let them spread lies; there will be no impact."

Top Army Comdrs to meet in Leh today

preparedness of the Army in the sector bordering China.

Tomorrow is also the third anniversary of the Galwan Valley clash which took place in 2020.

India has significantly enhanced military infrastructure, surveillance and combat capabilities along the nearly 3,500 km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China since the deadly clashes in Galwan Valley in 2020, sources in the defence establishment said Wednesday on the eve of the third anniversary of the hostilities.

The Indian and Chinese militaries are engaged in talks to reduce tensions along the frontier as the two sides are still locked in a standoff in a few friction points though they managed to disengage from some others.

The Galwan Valley clashes on June 15, 2020 were the first deadly skirmish between the two militaries along the LAC in five decades and they significantly strained the bilateral ties.

India has managed to significantly reduce the "infrastructure differential" with China along the LAC in the last three years in view of consistent focus on building helipads, airfields, bridges, tunnels, troop habitats and other required facilities, the sources said when asked about measures that have been taken following the Galwan clashes.

"The infrastructure development along the entire LAC is taking place at a fast pace. The main focus has been to bring down the infrastructure differential," said a source.

Our troops and equipment are adequately deployed now to deal with any eventualities, the sources said.

SIU chargesheets LeT militants

militants and a killed militant.

He said that on 24th of May, 2022, unknown militants fired upon one police personnel namely Saifullah Qadri son of Muhammad Syed Qadri and his minor daughter Safa Qadri resident of Malik Shab Saura Srinagar, in which police personnel got killed and his minor daughter was injured.

"During the course of investigation, three militants identified as Basit Ahmed Dar son of Abdul Rashid Dar, resident of Redwani Qaimou Kulgam, Momin Gulzar Mir son of Gulzar Ahmed Mir, resident of Firdous Colony Eidgh Srinagar and Adil Ahmed Paray

We are maintaining a posture that is focused on defeating any evil design by the adversary, they said.

The sources identified strengthening of all forms of surveillance including electronic ones as another significant aspect of boosting overall military preparedness by the Indian armed forces.

"The overall efforts to enhance the infrastructure, surveillance and military capabilities are based on a whole-of-the-government approach," the source said.

The need for quick mobilisation of troops and weapon systems gained renewed focus in the wake of the lingering border row between India and China in eastern Ladakh.

Following the escalation in tension in eastern Ladakh standoff, the Army has taken a series of measures to boost its operational capabilities in the eastern sector that included procurement of all terrain vehicles, precision guided ammunition, high-tech surveillance equipment, radars and weapons.

The militaries of the two countries held 18 rounds of high-level talks so far with an objective of taking forward the disengagement process in the remaining friction points and restoring peace and tranquility along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

The 18th round of high-level military talks between the two sides were held on April 23 during which they agreed to stay in close touch and work out a mutually acceptable solution to the remaining issues in eastern Ladakh at the earliest.

The two sides completed disengagement in several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

4 officers transferred

orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department was posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department.

Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, Special Secretary to the Government, Skill Development Department was transferred and

son of Habibullah Paray, resident of Badergund Ganderbal were found involved in the militant crime case. Besides, a scooter bearing registration number JK02CB-1268 used in the terrorist attack was also seized," he said.

"One of the accused militants namely Adil Ahmed Paray was killed in an encounter with Police Srinagar at Sangam area of Srinagar on 12/06/2022. While as, the other two involved militants are still active and linked with proscribed militant outfit LeT/TRF," he said.

"However, the investigation shall continue under Section 173 (8) CrPC," read the statement.

Narayan Dutt, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department has been posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Skill Development Department.

Assets, accounts not on militants' names but part of terror funds too will be attached/frozen

They numbered around 250. "The terrorists, who have fled away to Pakistan or to PoJK, are provoking and radicalizing the youth in the Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban region to engage them into terrorist related activities," sources added.

It is learnt that many terrorists of Lashkar-e-Toiba and Hizbul Mujahideen had fled to Pakistan when the terrorism was on high in Jammu and Kashmir in 90s.

Maximum 118 such terrorists hailed from Doda district, 96 from Ramban and 36 in Kishtwar, sources said but added that not all of them are active as many have married local girls there and are doing small business or labour work while few others have died. However, a good number of them are active and trying to mobilize local youth in the three districts with the help of their old contacts to revive militancy.

"The Interpol will be approached for Red Corner Notice against only those terrorists who are active and trying to revive militancy. They belonged to Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizbul Mujahideen and some other militant outfits. Their tentative locations in Pakistan and PoJK have also been traced by the Intelligence agencies," the officials said.

On attachment of their property, the officials said during raids on the houses of terrorists as well as in the course of investigations, police found that there was no property on their names as they were young when they left houses and exfiltrated to Pakistan and PoJK.

In view of this, a decision has been taken that part of property to which the militants are eligible in their families will be attached.

People protest Body of missing youth found dead in Ramgarh

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, June 14: The dead body of Saurav Kumar, son of Kamaljit, who went missing from Rangoor camp of Ramgarh district on Sunday, was today found in the fields under suspicious circumstances.

Taking the dead body in its pos-



A police officer pacifying protestors at Ramgarh on Wednesday. —Excelsior/Nishant

session, the police had given it to the family members for the last rites after getting the post-mortem done from Ramgarh Hospital, but the angry family members kept the dead body in Ramgarh Chowk and demonstrated strongly against the administration and the police and called it a case of murder. The relatives of the deceased said that their son was missing for the last three days, whose report they had lodged at the Ramgarh Police Station, but the police did not conduct any kind of investigation, nor did any search to trace the missing youth.

The people of the village said

that they searched for Sourav all over the area but he could not be found anywhere. People said that Sorav did not commit suicide, he was murdered by someone and they want the police to investigate it properly.

People said that no cognizance has been taken by the local police due to which their son died. People

said that a few days back Sourav was threatened to be killed by some people after coming to his house, about which they had informed the police, but SHO Ramgarh did nothing. The youth of Rangur camp, Naveen Chowdhary has demanded that justice should be done regarding Sourav's death. The protesters demonstrated by keeping the dead body at Ramgarh Chowk for about an hour.

DySP Garu Ram Bhardwaj reached the spot with the police force to pacify the angry people. He listened to the people and assured them of justice. Assuring the people, he said that there will be a fair investigation and whoever is found guilty will be punished according to the law. Later the protesters calmed down and they went to Puramandal for cremation.

Law Comm seeks views on UCC

NEW DELHI, June 14:

The Law Commission today said it has decided to look at the need for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) afresh and seek the views of various stakeholders, including members of the public and religious organisations.

Earlier, the 21st Law Commission, the term of which ended in August 2018, had examined the issue and solicited the views of all stakeholders on two occasions on the politically sensitive matter of a UCC.

Subsequently, a consultation paper on