

Order to live I-Day, ride I-Day

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Patna, Aug. 12: The divisional commissioners and district magistrates of Bihar will have to ride on vehicles having significant years of freedom struggle as registration number.

The Bihar government has sent a letter in this regard which was issued to all the commissioners and district magistrates today by the general administration department (GAD). The letter has given some examples like 1857 (Sepoy Mutiny), 1869 (birth year of Mahatma Gandhi), 1905 (Swadeshi Movement), 1917 (Champaran Satyagraha), 1920 (Non-cooperation Movement), 1930 (Dandi March), 1942 (Quit India Movement), 1947 (year of Independence) and 1950 (when India became a republic).

"These are just few examples and officials concerned can use their discretion while selecting numbers for the new vehicles purchased in districts and divisions. The only thing they have to keep in mind is that the number selected should depict an important year related to freedom struggle or persons who played prominent role in the struggle," GAD principal secretary Deepak Kumar told **The Telegraph**.

Giving reasons behind the decision, Kumar said such numbers, apart from being unique, would also attract people's attention. Another reason behind this directive is to discontinue the existing practice where vehicles used by the administration generally carry VIP numbers like 0001 or other one or two-digit numbers for which extra amount has to be paid to the transport department.

According to the letter number 2261 of the transport department issued on June 11, 2003, one has to pay extra fee of Rs. 25,000 for getting 0001 registration number and additional fee of Rs 15,000 for having registration numbers between 0002 and 0011.

"While taking this decision, it was thought that it would not be wise to bear such a cost by the government. Moreover, if it is availed by someone else, the government would get additional revenue," Kumar said.

The transport department would not charge extra for allocating registration numbers related to years of significance of freedom struggle for vehicles of district and divisional administration.