

Lok Sabha passes Motor Vehicles Amendment Act



A draft legislation to amend the Motor Vehicles Act to impose stiffer penalties on traffic rules violations and to protect the Good Samaritans from legal harassment was passed by the Lok Sabha today.

- The bill proposes hefty penalties for various traffic offences, three-year jail term for parents of minors caught driving and causing fatal accidents, and a ten-fold increase in compensation for the families of accident victims, among other things.
- The Bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to address issues such as third party insurance, regulation of taxi aggregators, and road safety.
- Under the Act, the liability of the third party insurer for motor vehicle accidents is unlimited.
- The Bill caps the maximum liability for third party insurance in case of a motor accident at Rs 10 lakh in case of death and at five lakh rupees in case of grievous injury.
- The Bill provides for a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund which would provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India for certain types of accidents.

**NATIONAL
NEWS**

President of India to present National Geoscience Awards 2016 tomorrow



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee will confer the National Geoscience Awards - 2016 tomorrow (April 12, 2017) at Rashtrapati Bhavan at 1300 hrs.

- The National Geoscience Awards, previously known as the National Mineral Awards, was instituted by the Ministry of Mines in 1966, to honour individuals and teams of scientists for their extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in fundamental, applied geosciences, mining and allied fields.
- The National Geoscience Awards includes one Award for Excellence, one Young Scientist Award and nineteen individual and/or team awards in 16 fields of geosciences.
- This year, twenty seven geoscientists are receiving the National Geoscience Awards, as individuals or team, for meritorious contributions in eleven fields of geosciences

**NATIONAL
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President of India presents SCOPE Awards



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) Awards at the 8th Public Sector Day function held in New Delhi today (April 11, 2017).

- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that celebrating this Day is an acknowledgement of the invaluable contribution made by our Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) since independence when PSEs had been chosen as the vehicle of industrialization in our country.
- He said that he was a firm believer in the continued relevance and importance of the Public Sector in our economy.
- He was confident that CPSEs will continue to do well in the future and meet new challenges.
- The President said that in our country we started with only five PSEs with an investment of 29 crore.
- However, their growth over the years is very substantial.
- Their overall net profit increased by 12.5 percent during 2015-16.
- This is appreciable since they have continued to perform well despite the fact that the global fiscal and economic scenario and industrial climate is not very encouraging.
- He said that India is a fast growing economy and many more glorious chapters will be added to the credit of PSEs in the future too.

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Kiren Rijiju to inaugurate 2-day NDMA consultative workshop tomorrow



MoS (Home) Shri Kiren Rijiju will inaugurate a two-day consultative workshop to review the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) here tomorrow.

- The event, being organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), will bring together all stakeholders to deliberate upon the Plan and suggest ways to improve it.
- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the country's first-ever National Plan for Disaster Management in June last year.
- The Plan aimed to make India disaster resilient and significantly reduce the loss of lives and assets.
- With this, India became one of the first countries to align its national plan to the 'Sendai Framework' - adopted at the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March, 2015.

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- While the Plan provides a framework for Disaster Management in the entire country, its execution involves all levels of Government right up to Panchayat and Urban Local Body level as well as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), civil society and vulnerable communities.
- It provides for periodic reviews of the Plan based on national experiences and emerging global practices.
- These reviews will help synchronise the Plan to the needs of the implementing agencies.

62nd Railway Week Award Function of Railway Board Celebrated



Railway Board celebrated the 62nd Railway Week Award function-2017 here today. Chairman, Railway Board Shri A.K.Mital presided over the function and gave away awards to 188 officers/staff, sportspersons, cultural artists and horticulture staff of Railway Board and National Rail Museum for their outstanding performance during the year 2016-17.

- Shri Mital presented the Running Efficiency Shield to two sections jointly viz. Coaching and E&R Section selected as “Best Kept Sections’ for maintaining high standard of efficiency, prompt disposal of cases and excellent upkeep of records.
- Besides this, Merit Certificates and Cash Awards were presented to three other well maintained sections.
- A total number of 125 officials of Railway Board received Merit Certificates and Cash Awards for their outstanding performance during the year 2016-17.
- Besides this, 45 sportspersons and 10 cultural artists were felicitated with Appreciation Letters and Cash Awards for their outstanding performance in the Inter-Ministry, All India Civil Services and Inter-Railway Competitions.
- Awards were presented to 3 Horticulture staff of Rail Bhavan and National Rail Museum for their excellent work.

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Gandhi in Champaran, authored by DG Tendulkar, launched



Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, on 10 April 2017 released a book titled Gandhi in Champaran at National Mahatma Gandhi Museum in New Delhi.

- The book was launched on the day that marks the 100th year of Champaran Satyagraha.
- The book is authored by noted writer Dinanath Gopal Tendulkar. The book is

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printed by Publications Division.

- In addition, the minister also released a book containing a collection of letters and articles of the correspondence between Nobel laureate Romain Rolland and Mahatma Gandhi as well as Tendulkar's eight-volume biography of Mahatma Gandhi, titled Mahatma: Life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
- Gandhi in Champaran offers a gripping account of Gandhi's first Satyagraha on Indian soil.
- The Satyagraha was his attempt to eliminate, by truthful and non-violent means, the grievances and sufferings of the peasants at the hands of the indigo planters.

Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff visits Malaysia



Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Indian Navy is on a goodwill visit to Malaysia from 11 to 15 April 2017.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION

- The visit is intended to consolidate and enhance bilateral maritime relations between India and Malaysia and is expected to provide a major boost to defence relations between India and Malaysia.
- During his visit, the Admiral will hold discussions with the Deputy Minister of Defence, Chief of Royal Malaysian Defence Forces along with the Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force of Malaysia.
- The Indian and the Royal Malaysian navies cooperate with each other in terms of training, operational interactions as well as interacting at various multilateral forums like Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, MILAN and ADMM Plus. Warships from both navies visit each other's ports to build 'Bridges of Friendship'.
- The Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) along with RMN corvette KD Lekir participated in the International Fleet Review-2016, at Visakhapatnam in February 2016.

India crowned Women's Hockey World League Round 2 champions



The Indian women's team stormed into the final of the Hockey World League Round 2 after a 4-0 thrashing of Belarus in the semi-finals here.

SPORTS

- India now play Chile in the summit clash.

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- Chile had beaten Uruguay 2-1 in the second semi-final.
- With this semi-final victory, India won a berth to take part in the Women's Hockey World League Semi-Final to be held in June/July, which is a qualifier for the FIH Women's World Cup 2018.
- India were the dominant side right from the start. Even though Belarus won two early penalty corners in the fourth and the ninth minutes, the Indian team's defence was impressive as they denied an early lead to their opponents.
- India were quick to earn their first penalty corner in the 13th minute and it was Gurjit Kaur whose stunning goal gave India a 1-0 lead in the first quarter.