

MOTOR VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT 2019

Prelims: Governance- Bills & Acts, Policies

Mains: GS-II- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Why in News?

- ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.

Highlights:

- ▶ The Act aims to make Indian roads safer, reduce corruption and use technology to overhaul the country's transportation system.
- ▶ Towards safety, the law has proposed stiffer penalties for traffic rule violations such as over-speeding, dangerous driving, driving under the influence of alcohol and other offences such as not wearing a helmet or driving without licence.
- ▶ The penalty for drunk driving has been increased by five times to ₹2,000. Speeding will now attract a fine or ₹5,000 instead of ₹500 earlier. Not giving way to emergency vehicles such as ambulances will attract a ₹10,000 fine.
- ▶ The new law also allows the Centre to ask manufacturers to recall vehicles in case of defects that cause harm to the environment.
- ▶ The Centre, in consultation with the states, can frame a national transportation policy to transform the rural and public road transportation system and improve last-mile connectivity.
- ▶ The process for testing and certification for automobiles is proposed to be regulated more effectively. The testing agencies issuing automobile approvals have been brought under the ambit of the Act.
- ▶ The driving training process has been strengthened enabling faster issuance of transport licenses.
- ▶ This will help in reducing the shortage of commercial drivers in the country.
- ▶ To bring harmony of the registration and licensing process, it is proposed to create National Register for Driving Licence and National Register for Vehicle registration through "Vahan" & "Sarathi" platforms. This will facilitate uniformity of the process across the country.

- ▶▶ The Act proposes offences committed by Juveniles. The Guardian / owner shall be deemed to be guilty in cases of offences by Juveniles and Juvenile to be tried under JJ Act. Registration of Motor Vehicle to be cancelled
- ▶▶ Improving delivery of services to the stakeholders using e-Governance is one of the major focuses of this Act. This includes enabling online learning licenses, increasing validity period for driving licenses, doing away with the requirements of educational qualifications for transport licenses are some of the features.

