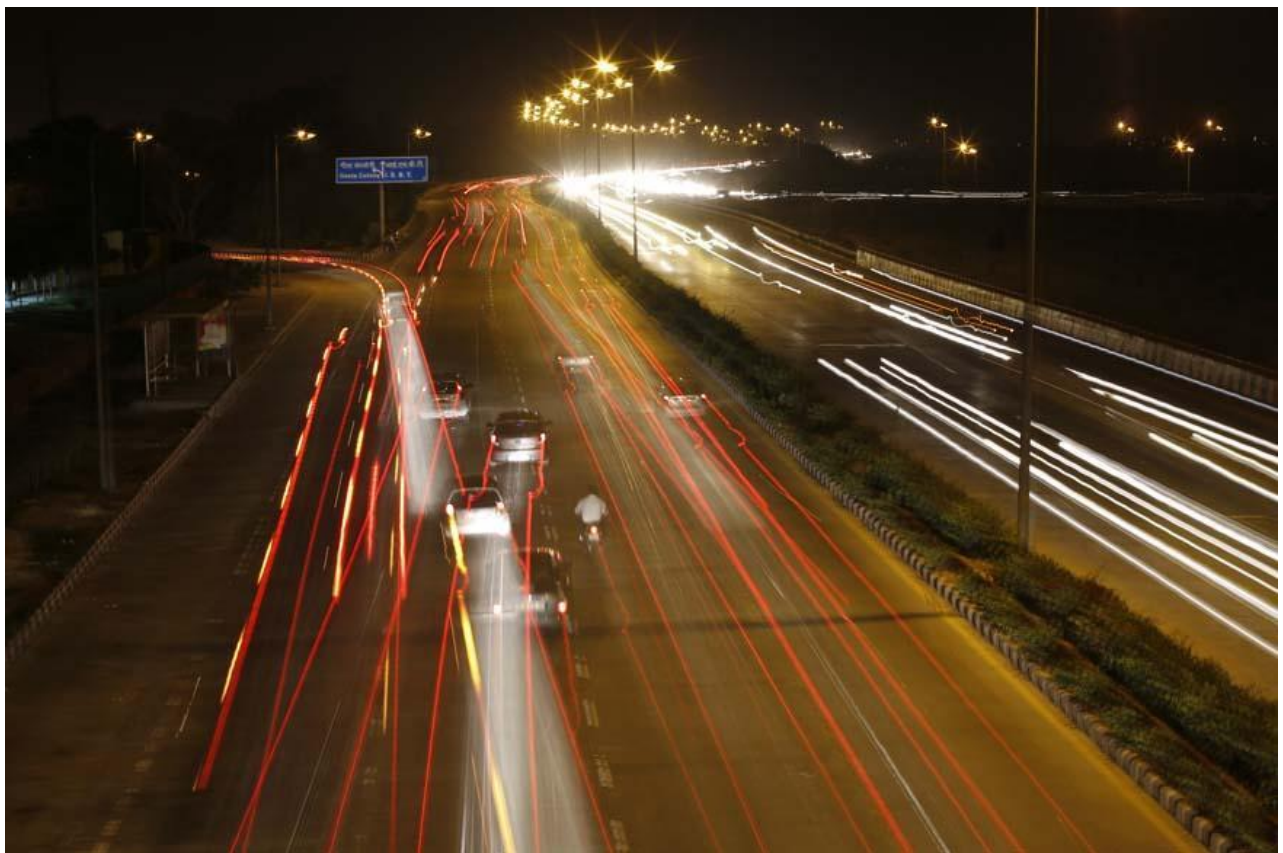


Government Proposes New Bill to Make Parents of Minor Drivers Liable

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First published: April 27, 2016, 10:37 AM IST

| Updated: April 27, 2016



Vehicles drive on a road in New Delhi. (File photo: Reuters)

New Delhi: To check minors taking control of the wheels, the union government has proposed a new bill which will make the parents of underage drivers liable. The government has constituted a high level committee of Road Transport Ministers of all states to draft the new law.

This comes a week after CNN-News18 aired a campaign story on the menace of underage drivers.

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has authorised a committee to come up with a new bill which will punish parents of underage drivers.

The committee is chaired by Rajasthan Transport Minister Yunus Khan and will submit a final report in the next 15 days.

CNN-News18 in its reports have been highlighting the urgent need to amend the law. As per the Motor Vehicle Act, the maximum punishment for an underage driver is just three months of imprisonment and Rs 1,000 fine.

Save Life Foundation's Saji Cherian said, "Impounding of vehicles in the first instance, cancelling the license of parents, etc. Parents Should be made accountable for their child's actions."

Apart from acting against the minor drivers, the government has also asked the committee to frame a fool proof road policy.

The Transport Ministry has identified 720 black spots on National Highways across the country and Rs 11,000 crore have been earmarked to take remedial steps. The ministry's target is to reduce accidents by 50% in the next five years.