

6th August, 2021

Government introduces bill in Lok Sabha to scrap retrospective tax law

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the Lok Sabha that seeks to withdraw tax demands made using a 2012 retrospective legislation to tax the indirect transfer of Indian assets.

The bill seeks to amend the Income Tax Act of 1961 and the Finance Act of 2012. The bill provides for the withdrawal of tax demand made on indirect transfer of Indian assets if the transaction was undertaken before May 28, 2012, the day the retrospective tax legislation came into being. It is also proposed to refund the amount paid in these cases without any interest thereon.

The bill has a direct bearing on long-running tax disputes with British firms Cairn Energy and Vodafone Group.

Parliament passes Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021

Parliament has passed the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021 with the Rajya Sabha approving it amid din. The Lok Sabha has already cleared the Bill. The Bill provides for the constitution of a Commission for better co-ordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the NCR and adjoining areas.

Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh have been defined as adjoining areas where any source of pollution may cause adverse impact on air quality in the NCR. Contravention of provisions of the Bill will be punishable with imprisonment of up to five years, or fine of up to one crore rupees, or both.

The Bill excludes farmers from the scope of these penalties.

Parliament passes Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021

Parliament has passed the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 with the Rajya Sabha approving it amidst din. The Lok Sabha has already cleared the Bill. The Bill allows the central government to prohibit strikes, lock-outs, and lay-offs in units engaged in essential defence services. It amends the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to include essential defence services under public utility services.

Rajya Sabha passes Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021

The Rajya Sabha today passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021 amid din with voice vote. The Bill seeks to amend the constitutional list of Scheduled Tribes as recommended by Arunachal Pradesh. It removes the Abor tribe from the list of identified STs in that state.

Pani Maah kickstarts in Ladakh

In Ladakh, Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Pani Maah (Water Month) was kick started by the Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Feroz Ahmad Khan at Kargil.

Pani Maah is a comprehensive 1-month campaign which was launched by the Lieutenant Governor Radha Krishna Mathur on 25th July in UT Ladakh which will run at the block and panchayat level in 2- phases, with the 1st phase from 1st to 15th August and 2nd phase from 16th to 30th August, 2021.

During this one month campaign, to ensure clean and safe drinking water in every village, extensive testing of water will be conducted at the sources and delivery points with the involvement of the community which also includes the Village Women Committee and user groups.

BRO constructs highest motorable road in the world in Eastern Ladakh

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and black-topped the highest motorable road in the world at 19,300 ft at Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh, creating a record in high-altitude road construction. It has constructed a 52-km long tarmac road through Umlingla Pass, bettering the previous record of a road in Bolivia connecting to its volcano Uturuncu at 18,953 ft.

The road now connects the important towns in Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh. It will prove to be a boon to the local population as it offers an alternate direct route connecting Chisumle and Demchok from Leh. It will enhance the socio-economic condition and promote tourism in Ladakh.

India's ace grappler Ravi kumar Dahiya creates history, clinches Silver Medal

Indian grappler Ravi Dahiya has secured silver medal. He was defeated by the reigning world champion Zavur Uguev of Russian Olympic Committee in the freestyle 57 kilogram final by 4-7.

Indian Women's team falls short in brave fight against Great Britain; loses 3-4 in Bronze medal match

In Women's Hockey, India lost 3-4 to Great Britain in the bronze medal match. Team trailed 3-4 in the fourth quarter of the match as Grace Balsdon scored the all-important fourth goal. India took a 3-2 lead going into half-time but skipper Hollie Pearne Webb soon scored the equalizer for Great Britain.