

Six-month jail for Drunken Driving

28 May 2014

The Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Chandigarh, today sentenced a person, who has been repeatedly challaned for drunken driving, to imprisonment for six months and imposed a fine of Rs 3,000 on him.

The accused has been previously also challaned four times for the offence of drunken driving. The provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act provide for enhanced penalty in the case of a subsequent offence of drunken driving by an offender. The court ordered that in default of the payment of the fine, the accused will have to further undergo imprisonment for one month. The court has also disqualified the accused from holding any driving licence to drive any class of vehicle for six months.

The challaning officer of the traffic wing remained present in the court with all relevant record and the defence counsel for the accused was also given an opportunity to give evidence. However, the court sentenced the accused after being satisfied with the case of the prosecution.

Going by the statistics, licences of around 300 motorists have been suspended in the past five years. In all, there were at least 350 repeat offenders; the exact number is not available, but licences of only regular repeat offenders were suspended for three to six months.

Over 4,827 offenders are challaned each year for drunken driving by the traffic police.