

Preface

I am immensely happy to know that Haryana Police is organizing Inter School Road Safety Quiz Competition for enhancing awareness about traffic laws, road regulations and driving skills. The school children are excellent teachers and they have the capacity to influence their parents and near and dear ones to follow traffic rules. It is therefore the need of the hour to target children to spread the message of road safety.

Lack of driving sense and perpetual disobedience of traffic rules has made our roads extremely unsafe. It does not come as a surprise that most of the drivers of motor vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and even the traffic police personnel managing and controlling traffic on the roads are not fully aware of traffic rules and regulations. Lack of awareness about the concept of safe or defensive driving coupled with poor enforcement of rules of the road have resulted in chaotic driving conditions on Indian roads. More than, 1,40,000 persons die in accidents on Indian roads every year. Gravity of the situation can be gauged from the fact that India has 1% of the World's vehicles and 10% of the road accidents.

Lack of driving skills is the single most important cause of traffic accidents in the country. With increasing population and rising economic prosperity, lakhs of new drivers are added to our roads every year. The situation on road safety front will not improve unless the prospective drivers are imparted proper training in driving. One of the very important steps to bring some discipline on the road and prevent accidents is to offer quality driver training and implement an effective licensing system. This driving manual is a step in the right direction in that context and will go a long way in helping improve the driving skills of our people.

I congratulate Shri Shatrujeet kapur, IPS, Additional Director General of Police for organizing Inter School Road Safety Quiz Competition to inculcate a culture of Road Safety in the young minds. This effort will go a long way in inculcating good driving sense among the prospective young drivers.

I wish them all the best.

**Director General of Police
Haryana**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Driving a motor vehicle is not a right. Rather, it is a privilege and this privilege comes with many responsibilities. In order to enjoy the privilege of driving, it is important that you should know what laws, rules and regulations exist for safe driving and must follow them at all times. As the driver of a vehicle, your aim should be to make driving a safe and enjoyable experience for yourself, for the passengers in your vehicle, as well as for other drivers sharing the road.

Driving is a complex task and complicated situations can arise at any point of time. How you react to such situations depends upon your training, alertness and your attitude while driving.

1.1. Road Accident – Some Facts

1. Every year 13 lakh people die in road accidents.
2. 90% of road accidents belong to developing countries.
3. Road accident is the main cause of deaths in youths.
4. Road accidents increases economical burden on hospitals and health services.
5. Road accidents are increasing at a rate of 5% every year.
6. India is No. 1 in deaths due to road accidents.
7. In India, 15 people die every hour in road accidents.
8. 70% victims of road accidents belong to 30 to 59 year age group.

1.2. Reasons of Road Accidents

Careless attitude of drivers is the main reason for road accidents. Other reasons are like, drunken driving, fast driving, impatience, use of mobile while driving, disobedience of traffic rules, overloading of vehicles and conditions of roads.

1.3. Objectives of the Traffic Quiz Competition

Due to sharp increase in road accidents, road safety education has become a necessity. The main objectives of the „Traffic Quiz Competition“ are –

1. To sow the seeds of road safety in the mind of young ones from childhood.

2. To increase awareness in whole society about traffic rules and regulations. Every child will play an important role for achieving our goal of road safety.
3. To ensure safe, smooth and secure flow of traffic.

2. THE DRIVING LICENSE

As per Section 3(1) of the Motor Vehicles Act 1988, an effective driving license is required to drive any motor vehicle on public roads. No person is permitted to drive a vehicle in any public place unless he or she holds a valid driving licence issued to him (or her) authorising him (or her) to drive the category of vehicle for which the licence was issued.

Driving licence is issued by the local licensing authority. Each Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) in the state of Haryana has been designated as the licensing authority for a motor vehicle other than a transport vehicle or an omnibus within the area of his or her jurisdiction. In other words, SDMs issue driving licences for light motor vehicles and two wheelers. For transport vehicles, the Regional Transport Officer and Assistant District Transport Officer, or any other person as appointed by the State Government is the licensing authority to issue licenses to persons residing within their area of jurisdiction.

2.1. Age Eligibility

A person cannot be issued a driving licence unless he (or she) meets the age criterion for the class of vehicle for which he (or she) applies for a licence. Following is the age eligibility criterion for driving a motor vehicle in India.

- | | | |
|----------|---|--|
| 16 years | – | For motor cycles with engine capacity not exceeding 50cc. |
| 20 years | – | For transport vehicles (public service vehicles, goods carriages, educational institution bus or a private service vehicle) that are used for hire or reward, or for transporting goods. |
| 18 years | – | Any other vehicle. |

Moreover, it is the responsibility of the owner or person in charge of the vehicle to not permit any person who does not have a valid licence or does not satisfy the age requirements, to drive the vehicle. If he do so then he is doing an offence under section 180 of motor vehicle act, for this there is provision of 3 months jail or Rs. 1000/- or both.

2.2. Types of Driving Licenses

Following types of licenses are issued by the licensing authority in India.

- **Learner's licence**

Every new driver must acquire a learner's license for learning to drive a motor vehicle of the class for which learner's licence is intended. Learner's licence is issued after passing a preliminary test and is valid for six months from the date it is issued.

A person holding a learner's license is allowed to drive while receiving instructions or for gaining experience in driving provided he or she is accompanied by an instructor holding an effective driving license for that category of the vehicle and the instructor is sitting in such a position to control or stop the vehicle, if needed.

The vehicle driven by a person holding learner's license must also have 'L' sign (see Diagram 1) displayed (painted or attached) on the vehicle in the front and the rear, in red on a white background. The dimensions of the letter 'L' must be at least ten centimetres in height, two centimetres in thickness, and nine centimetres in width at the bottom.

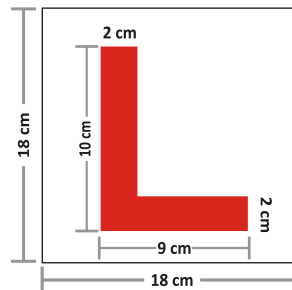


Diagram 1

- **Driving Licence**

Driving licence is issued to eligible persons, Indian citizens or foreign nationals, allowing them to drive a motor vehicle in India. The holder of the driving license is permitted to drive a vehicle of the class as mentioned on his or her driving license. The driving licence is valid in any part of India. Applicant is eligible to apply for the driving licence after thirty days from the date of issue of the learner's license but before the expiry of the learner's license.

Driving licence for vehicles other than transport vehicles is issued for a period of twenty years from the date of issue, or until the date on which the person being issued the licence attains the age of fifty years, whichever is earlier. For a person who has attained the age of fifty years on or before the date of issue of licence, the licence is issued for a period of five years from the date of issue or renewal.

License for transport vehicles is issued or renewed for a period of three years. However, the licence is issued or renewed for a period of one year only in case the licence is to drive a transport vehicle carrying goods of dangerous or hazardous nature.

- **International Driving Permit (IDP)**

The licensing authority is also competent to issue International

2.3. Categories of Driving Licences

The driving licences in India are issued for some broad classes of vehicles. Moreover, a driving licence is issued under a specific category – Non- Transport, or Transport - for every class of vehicle based on the purpose of use.

Different classes of vehicles for which licences are issued are:

- Motorcycle Without Gears
- Motorcycle With Gears
- Light Motor Vehicle
- Transport Vehicle
- Invalid Carriage
- Road Roller
- Motor Vehicle of a Specified Description

3. KNOW YOUR VEHICLE

It is important to know your vehicle thoroughly. You should be aware of the controls, safety features, indicators, various lights and alarms fitted in your vehicle as shown in the diagram 2. Read the vehicle's user guide and get yourself familiar with various functions and warning indications. Regularly check the lights, horn, brakes, tyre's and other controls to make sure they are in working condition.

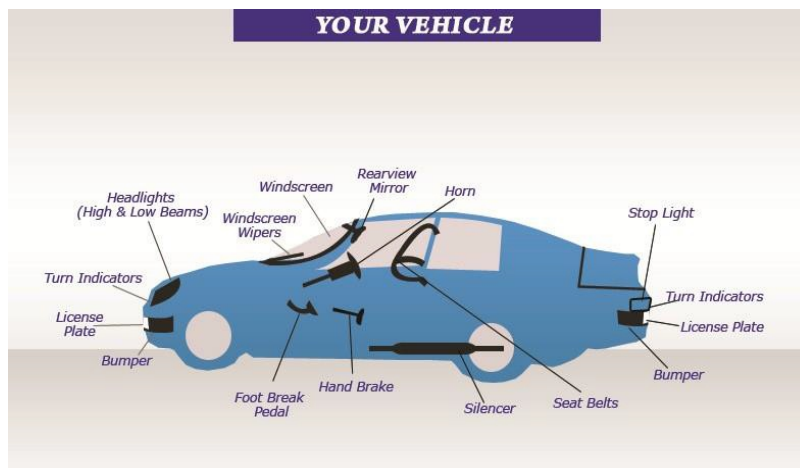


Diagram 2

3.1. Steering Wheel

Steering wheel, sometimes also called driving wheel, is part of the steering system that allows the driver to control the steering of the vehicle.

The correct way of holding the steering wheel, as far as possible, is with both the hands at "Quarter to three" or "ten to two" positions as shown in the diagram 3 below. You should hold the steering wheel at all times and never leave it unattended. Further, you should never cross hands while rotating the steering wheel. Also, never operate any vehicle control by inserting your hand through the steering wheel. Some examples of incorrect maneuvering of the steering wheel are given below (see Diagrams 4-8).



Diagram 3



Diagram 4



Diagram 5



Diagram 6



Diagram 7



Diagram 8

3.2. Horn

Every vehicle must be fitted with a working horn to provide sufficient audible warning of the approach or location of the vehicle. Bells and sirens are NOT horns. Use your horn only when necessary to avoid a crash. Also, no vehicle other than emergency vehicles such as ambulance, fire engines, police vehicles or as approved by the registering authority shall be fitted with multi-toned horn that gives a succession of different sounds or produces an unduly harsh, shrill, loud or alarming noise.

Please note that the use of horn is also governed by environmental regulations. As a general rule, you should not:

- needlessly and continuously blow horn or more than necessary to ensure safety,
- blow horn in silence zone,
- make use of a cut-out by which exhaust gases are released other than through the silencer,
- fit or use any multi-toned horn giving a harsh, shrill, loud or alarming noise,
- drive a vehicle creating undue noise when in motion,
- drive a vehicle using a muffler (silencer) causing alarming noise.

3.3. Licence Plate

A registration mark (also known as licence or number plate) must be displayed clearly and legibly both at the front and at the rear of all motor vehicles. A white light bulb or rear lamp must properly illuminate the entire registration mark area.

The letters of the registration mark must be in English and numbers in Arabic numerals in black colour on yellow background for transport vehicles and in all other cases, in black colour on white background. Nothing else should be written, displayed or painted on the licence plate other than the registration number.

3.4. Silencer

All motor vehicles must be fitted with silencers that reduce the noise from the escaping exhaust gases as far as practicable. Check the silencers regularly for any leaks.

3.5. Black Film

The Hon'ble Supreme court has banned the use of black film of any kind on the windscreens or on the side windows of the vehicles.

3.6. Reflectors

Every motor vehicle other than motor cycles and three-wheelers must be fitted with two red reflectors, one each on both sides at the rear. Motor cycles must be fitted with at least one red reflex reflector at the rear.

3.7. Use of Red, White, Blue Lights or Spotlights

The use of blue light, red light, flashing light, and strobe lamps is restricted by law for vehicles that serve specific purpose. No motor

vehicle must show a red light to the front and no light other than red in the rear of the vehicle except for a white light to illuminate the registration mark, a white light used while reversing the vehicle, or amber coloured directional indicator lights.

Use of red, blue, white or flashing lights is restricted to:

- a blinker type red light with purple glass for ambulances,
- a blue light with flasher as determined and notified by the State Government,
- a red light with or without a flasher on the vehicles carrying high dignitaries as notified by the Central or State Government.
- a blue light with or without flasher on vehicles escorting high dignitaries,
- multi-coloured red, blue, or white lights on vehicles used for emergency purposes as notified by the State Government,
- light on vehicles used by the officers of the police department,
- blue lights on fire tenders, fire trucks, or other emergency vehicles.

Furthermore, vehicles cannot carry a spot light or search light on the front except in exceptional conditions as approved by the registering authority.

3.8. Seatbelts and Airbags

A seatbelts is an important device which can prevent injury or death in case of an accident.

It is very important to wear the seatbelts properly. Always put the shoulder strap over your shoulder, never under your arm. The lap-belt should be put low over the hips, not over the stomach.

Airbags are the supplemental devices to help prevent serious bodily injury or death. You must wear a seatbelt even if your vehicle is equipped with airbags. Airbags are helpful in preventing injury only when a seatbelt is worn. In fact, if you are not wearing a seatbelt, airbags can cause bodily injury.

3.9. Pollution Control

Every motor vehicle must carry a "Pollution Under Control" certificate which is valid for six months. The new motor vehicles must be re-certified for "Pollution Under Control" after the expiry of one year from the date of first registration.

4. TRAFFIC SIGNS, SIGNALS AND ROAD MARKINGS

Traffic signs, signals and markings on the roads and pavements are meant to provide clear guidance to help the drivers drive safely, regulate traffic, cautioning the drivers of dangers ahead, and informing the drivers of facilities available en-route. They convey a clear, visual and precise meaning in a simple form. Every prospective driver, therefore, must know all road signs, signals and markings found on the public roads and highways and follow them at all times.

4.1 Signs

Road signs are published by Indian Road Congress (IRC) and use symbols and pictures. These are uniformly followed across the country. They are shape and color coded to give you a quick idea about what the sign says even before you are close enough to read it. Road signs are of three types:

- Mandatory Signs
- Cautionary Signs
- Informatory Signs

Mandatory Signs

These signs are mandatory and must be followed at all times. Mandatory signs are circular, except the 'Stop' sign and the 'Give Way' sign. Mandatory signs are reproduced below for your quick reference.



STOP SIGN

This sign is used on roadways where traffic is required to stop before entering a major road or intersection.



GIVE WAY SIGN

You must give way to the other traffic having the right-of-way.



NO ENTRY

This sign is located at places where the entry of all vehicles is prohibited.



STRAIGHT PROHIBITED OR NO ENTRY

This sign is located at places where the vehicles are not allowed to enter or go straight.



ONE WAY SIGN

Vehicles prohibited in one direction. Indicates that traffic going forward is prohibited.



ONE WAY SIGN

Vehicles prohibited in one direction. Indicates that traffic going in the other direction is prohibited.



VEHICLES PROHIBITED IN BOTH DIRECTIONS

This sign is used where entry to all types of vehicular traffic is prohibited.



ALL MOTOR VEHICLES
PROHIBITED



TRUCKS PROHIBITED



BULLOCK CARTS AND
HAND CARTS PROHIBITED



BULLOCK CARTS
PROHIBITED



TONGAS PROHIBITED



HAND CARTS
PROHIBITED



CYCLES PROHIBITED



PEDESTRIANS
PROHIBITED



RIGHT TURN
PROHIBITED



LEFT TURN
PROHIBED



U-TURN
PROHIBITED



OVER TAKING
PROHIBITED



HORN PROHIBITED



NO PARKING



NO STOPPING OR
STANDING



SPEED LIMIT



WIDTH LIMIT



HEIGHT LIMIT



LENGTH LIMIT



LOAD LIMIT



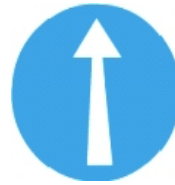
AXLE LOAD LIMIT



RESTRICTION
ENDS



COMPULSORY
TURN LEFT



COMPULSORY
AHEAD ONLY



COMPULSORY
TURN RIGHT



COMPULSORY AHEAD
OR TURN RIGHT



COMPULSORY AHEAD
OR TURN LEFT



COMPULSORY
KEEP LEFT



COMPULSORY
CYCLE TRACK



COMPULSORY
SOUND HORN

Cautionary Signs

Cautionary signs are meant to warn the drivers about the hazardous or abnormal conditions lying ahead. These signs are triangular in shape. The following cautionary signs are included in the motor vehicle act, 1988:



RIGHT HAND CURVE



LEFT HAND CURVE



RIGHT HAIR
PIN BEND



LEFT HAIR
PIN BEND



RIGHT REVERSE
BEND



LEFT REVERSE
BEND



STEEP ASCENT



STEEP DESCENT



NARROW BRIDGE



ROAD WIDENS
AHEAD



NARROW ROAD
AHEAD



SLIPPERY ROAD



LOOSE GRAVEL



PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



CYCLE CROSSING



SCHOOL AHEAD



MEN AT WORK



CATTLE



FALLING ROCKS



FERRY



CROSS ROAD



GAP IN MEDIAN



SIDE ROAD RIGHT



SIDE ROAD LEFT



Y-INTERSECTION



Y-INTERSECTION



Y-INTERSECTION



T-INTERSECTION



STAGGERED
INTERSECTION



STAGGERED
INTERSECTION



MAJOR ROAD AHEAD



MAJOR ROAD AHEAD



ROUND ABOUT



DANGEROUS DIP



RUMBLE STRIP



HUMP OR
ROUGH ROAD



SPEED BREAKER



BARRIER AHEAD



SERIES OF BENDS



QUAYSIDE OR
RIVER BANK



START OF DUAL
CARRIAGEWAY



END OF DUAL
CARRIAGEWAY



UNREGULATED
LEVEL CROSSING



GUARDED
LEVEL CROSSING



LANE CLOSED
(ON A TWO
LANE ROAD)



OVERHEAD CABLE



TRAFFIC SIGNAL

Informatory Signs

Informatory signs provide information on direction, destination, roadside facilities etc. to the drivers. These signs are square or rectangular in shape.



ADVANCE
DIRECTION SIGN



DESTINATION SIGN



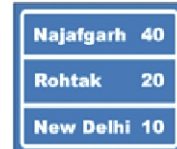
ADVANCE DIRECTION
SIGN ON ROTARY
INTERSECTION



DIRECTION SIGN



PLACE IDENTIFICATION
SIGN



RE-ASSURANCE SIGN



PETROL PUMP



HOSPITAL



FIRST-AID POST



EATING PLACE



LIGHT REFRESHMENT



RESTING PLACE



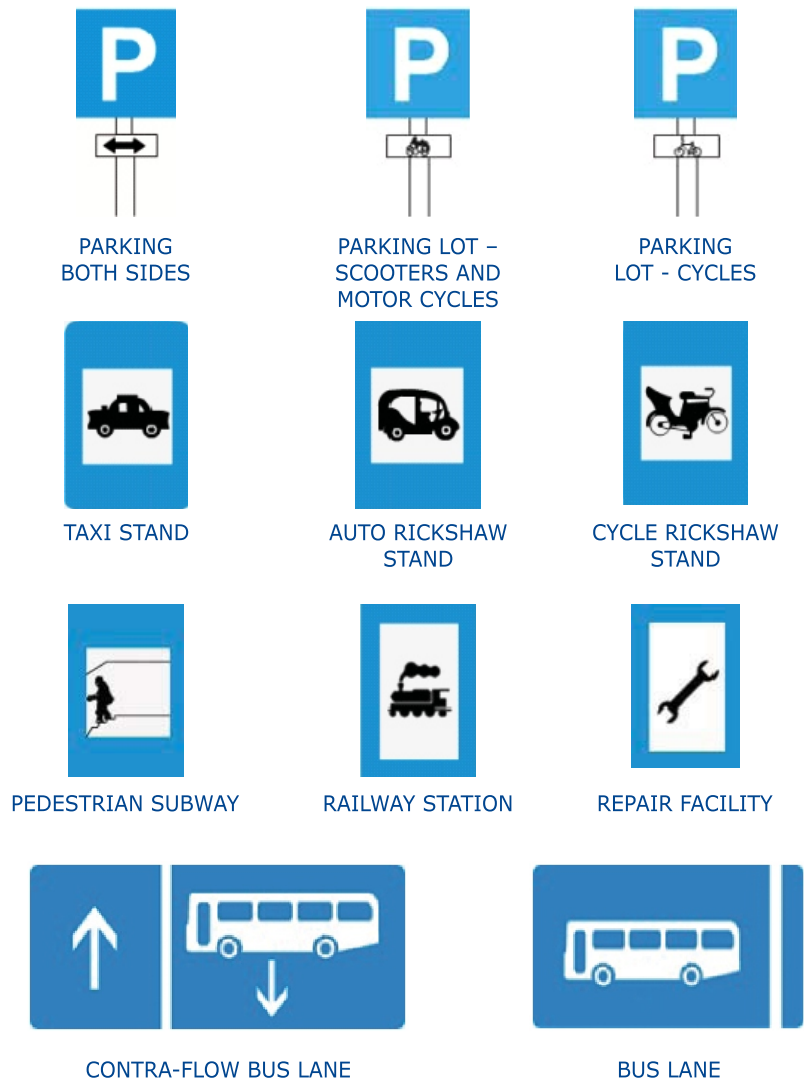
NO THROUGH ROAD



PUBLIC TELEPHONE



BUS STOP



4.2 Signals (Traffic lights)

Traffic lights are used to control traffic at intersections. Apart from traffic lights, many intersections have lighted arrows for traffic control. Arrows control the flow of traffic in the direction of the arrow.

Red

If you see red light as shown in diagram 11, come to a complete stop before entering the intersection and before the stop line, or pedestrian or zebra crossing, if any. You must wait until the red light turns green. A red arrow means no turning in the direction of the arrow.



Diagram 11

Amber

If you see amber light as shown in diagram 12, before you enter the intersection, stop your vehicle behind the stop line or cross walk (pedestrian crossing). If you have already entered the intersection and the light turns amber, continue moving on, but with caution. A yellow arrow means proceed with caution in the direction of the arrow.



Diagram 12

Green

Green light as shown in diagram 13 means you continue moving through the intersection carefully giving way to the pedestrians and other vehicles already in the intersection. A green arrow indicates that you may proceed in the direction of the arrow if you are in the proper lane.



Diagram 13

Flashing Signals

Flashing red signal as shown in diagram 14 means you must come to a complete stop behind the stop line or pedestrian crossing, and move through the intersection only when it is safe to do so. Flashing amber signal warns drivers to slow down and drive with caution.



Diagram 14

Pedestrian Crossing signals

These signals help pedestrians cross the road safely. As a pedestrian, you can cross the road if you face a green 'walk' sign as shown in diagram 15.



Diagram 15

Never try to "beat the light." If the light turns yellow and you have enough space to stop safely, please stop.

4.3 Traffic Police Hand Signals

If the traffic is being controlled and directed by the traffic police personnel, follow their hand signals even if they are different from traffic lights or signals as there may be an emergency situation on the road. Following pictures illustrate different hand signals used by the traffic police as shown in the diagrams from 16 to 21.



Diagram 16
Stop Traffic
From Behind



Diagram 17
Stop Traffic
From Front



Diagram 18
Stop Traffic From
Front and Back



Diagram 19
Stop Traffic From
Left and Right



Diagram 20
Allow Traffic From
Right to Turn Right



Diagram 21
Allow Traffic From
Left to Turn Right

Multiple hand signals may be used together in succession to provide better traffic management.

5. BASICS OF DRIVING

As a driver of a motor vehicle, it is important to have good understanding of certain concepts and aspects of driving in order to be able to drive safely.

5.1. Guiding Rules of Safe Driving

This section explains some important rules of safe driving.

Following Distance

It is a good and safe driving practice to maintain a reasonable following distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. This gives you enough space to slow down or change your path safely, in case the vehicle in front applies brakes or slows down. Traffic, speed, weather conditions, visibility can impact the safe following distance between vehicles. As a rule of thumb, use the „2 second rule' in normal conditions (see Diagram 20). **Diagram-20**

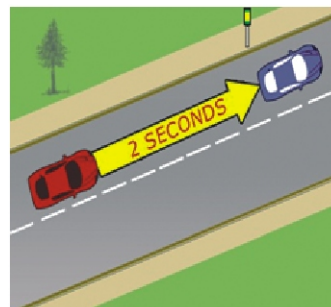


Diagram 20

Two Seconds Rule means that you should keep the following distance from the vehicle in front of you such that it takes your vehicle to reach the vehicle in the front at least 2 seconds assuming that the front vehicle is stationary. You should further increase the safe following distance during adverse weather conditions like rain, fog, snow or during night.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

Right of way is a very important concept while sharing the road with other road users. It determines which vehicle gets to go first in different situations. It is the responsibility of the drivers and the pedestrians to obey this rule for smooth flow of traffic. This rule is based on courtesy and common sense.

Here are some of the common situations described for understanding the right-of-way rule:

- Emergency vehicles like ambulances, fire tenders, police vehicles with flashing lights always have the right-of-way in all conditions.

- Zebra crossings belong to the pedestrians. Pedestrians have the right of way at the zebra crossings and at uncontrolled pedestrian crossings. When entering an intersection or facing a zebra crossing, slow down and give way to any pedestrians crossing the road.
- If you are about to enter the roundabout, the vehicles already in the circle have right of way.
- Vehicles merging with the traffic after turning left using slip lanes must give way to any vehicle on the road.
- In case of a Stop sign, the driver must stop at the Stop line and if there is no Stop line, before entering the intersection, and give right of way to vehicles already in the intersection.
- If two vehicles reach an uncontrolled intersection at the same time, the vehicle on the right has the right of way.
- When turning right, give right of way to the oncoming vehicles going straight or turning left.
- If all the sides at an intersection do not have Stop sign or stop line, then the vehicles on stop lines must give right of way to the vehicles coming from sides without stop line.
- When a vehicle enters the uncontrolled T-Section, the vehicle that is making a turn must give right of way to the through traffic.
- Drivers on a minor road must give way to the vehicles on the main road at an intersection.

The following examples will further clarify the above rules-

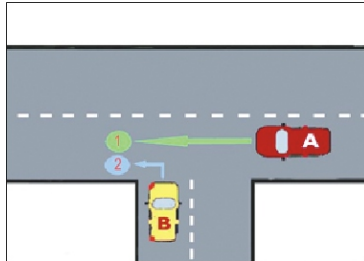


Diagram 21

Vehicle **A** gets priority being on the main road. Vehicle **B** will give way before merging on the main road.

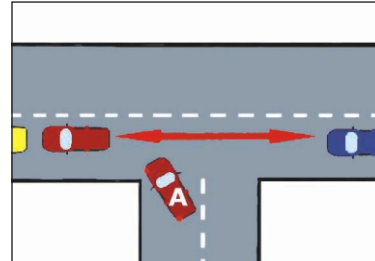


Diagram 22

Vehicle **A** can merge with the traffic only when a safe gap appears in traffic on the main road.

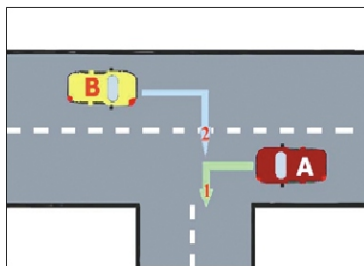


Diagram 23

Vehicle **B** will give way to vehicle **A** as vehicle **A** is turning on the side road on the same side and vehicle **B** is turning on the opposite side of the road.

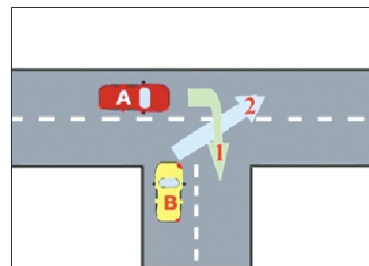


Diagram 24

Vehicle **A** leaving the main road has the right of way over vehicle **B** wishing to join the main road.

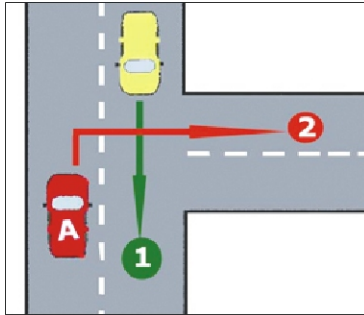


Diagram 25

For turning right, vehicle **A** will give way to oncoming traffic and will turn only when a safe gap appears in traffic.

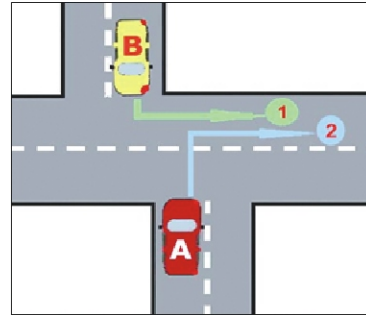


Diagram 26

Vehicle **B** is joining the same side and Vehicle **A** is joining the opposite side of the road. Vehicle **A** has to give way to vehicle **B**.

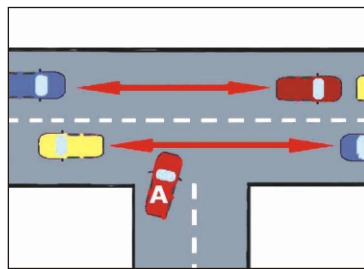


Diagram 27

In diagram 27, vehicle **A** is turning right. Since it is merging with traffic on the opposite side, join only when a clear gap appears on both sides as shown.

5.2 Courtesy on the Roads

While the rules governing the right of way as described in the previous section apply in general, it is equally important for drivers on the main road having the right of way to show courtesy and stop to allow the vehicles merging with/leaving the main road to go first whenever the volume of traffic is high, otherwise the waiting time for the vehicles on the side road becomes agonizingly high. This is particularly true during the rush hours. Failure to show such courtesy will lead to traffic jam on the side road. Lack of courtesy on the road often leads to traffic jam as shown in Diagram-28.

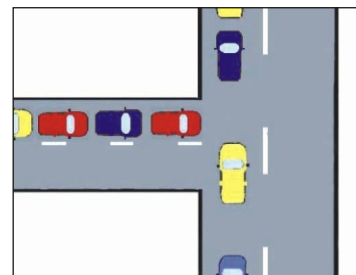


Diagram 28

At any crossing whenever traffic lights become out of order, then it is a common picture as shown in diagram 29. It happens only because of lack of courtesy.

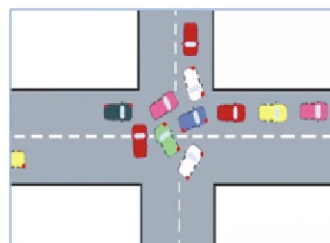


Diagram 29

Courtesy also means leaving access to pedestrians on Zebra crossings free during traffic congestion. Similarly, at an intersection, even if the signal is green but the road ahead of the intersection is not clear, a courteous driver stops before the intersection, leaving the junction box.

Another common occurrence is on manned railway crossings where cars and two wheelers often occupy the lanes meant for oncoming traffic causing traffic jam as shown in Diagram-30.



Diagram 30

Speed Limit

Speed limit is the maximum speed at which you can drive a vehicle under ideal condition. If the conditions are less than ideal, you must slow down to a safe speed which is less than the speed limit. Your speed must not be more than 25 km/h, if you are passing a procession, troops or police on the march or when passing workmen engaged in road repair work.

Following table lists the specified speed limits for different categories of vehicles:

Type of Vehicle	National Highway (km/h)	State Highway (km/h)	Other Main Roads (km/h)
Bus/Truck	65	65	60
Car/Jeep	90	80	70
Motorcycle/Scooter	50	50	45

6. SHARING THE ROAD

It is our responsibility as a driver of the motor vehicle that we focus on the task at hand and be aware of our surroundings. Many road accidents can be prevented by simply obeying traffic rules and by extending simple courtesy to other drivers. Remember that the public roads and highways must be shared with other drivers and users of the road.

This section has been derived from the "Rules of the Road Regulations, 1989" which serve as the basic guide for rules that have to be followed while driving on the road. It deals with basic facts such as right of way, overtaking, turns, parking etc.

6.1. Keeping Left

In India, vehicles drive on the left hand side of the road. It is important to keep to the left and let the traffic coming from the opposite direction to pass on your right. Keep to your left as much as possible to avoid head-on collision. When driving on a channelized road marked with lanes, drive within the lane, and stay close to the left of the lane.

6.2. Changing Lanes

Changing lanes can be dangerous and must be done with caution. Follow MSM rule to change lanes. Make sure you have safe clearance to the side, behind or ahead before moving to another lane. Never change lanes at intersections.

Blind Spots are areas around your vehicle where your view is obstructed as shown in diagrams 31 & 32. These areas are not visible in the rear-view and side-view mirrors. Any pedestrian, vehicles or other objects in the blind spots may not be visible to you. It is important to know your blind spots. Quickly look over your shoulder to the side of the turn for vehicles or pedestrians in the blind spots before you turn or change lane. Also, avoid driving into other drivers' blind spots. Commercial vehicles, due to their size and design have larger areas in their blind spots as shown in diagram 32.

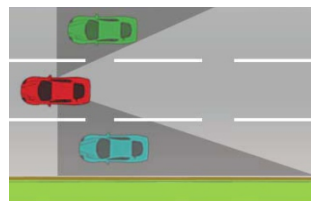


Diagram 31

Blind spots (shaded areas)
of a car

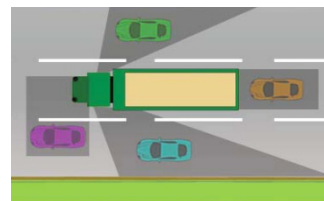


Diagram 32

Blind spots (shaded areas)
of a commercial vehicle

7. DRIVING OFFENSES AND PENALTIES

The aim of enforcing the traffic laws, rules and regulations is to enhance road safety and reduce road accidents. These laws are enforced by issuing challans in the name of the offenders. Traffic challans and fines are meant to discourage irresponsible driving and instilling discipline on roads. Some of the important rules for driving offenses are explained below.

7.1. Drunken Driving

Drunken driving in India is an offense. For this offence, the driver can get imprisonment of six months or fine of Rs 2000/- or both. If any driver commit this offence second time within two years period then he can be punished with imprisonment upto 2 years or fine of Rs 3000/- or both.

7.2. Over Speeding

Violation of specified speed limits is an offence under law. Furthermore, whosoever causes any person, employed by him or her, or subject to his or her control in driving, to drive the vehicle in violation of this section can also be charged under this section.

7.3. Driving Dangerously

Driving a motor vehicle in a dangerous manner is a punishable offense. For this offence, the driver can get imprisonment of six months or fine of Rs. 1000/- or both. If any driver commit this offence second time within two years period then he can be punished with imprisonment upto 2 years or fine of Rs. 2000/- or both.

Furthermore, any person who abets the commission of this offense can also be charged under section 188 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1988.

7.4. Use of Helmets

In the state of Haryana, it is mandatory for every person driving or riding a motor cycle of any class or description in a public place must wear protective head-gear (helmet). However, persons driving or riding a two-wheeler, who are medically advised by a Chief Medical Officer not to wear such headgear or a Sikh wearing a turban shall not be required to wear a headgear (helmet).

7.5. Use of Mobile Phone or Cellphones

Drivers of the motor vehicles must not use or talk on mobile phones while driving a vehicle. This is a punishable offense as per the law.

7.6. Smoking while Driving

Smoking while driving is a violation of law and the licensing authority can disqualify or revoke the driving licence of the driver.

7.7. Emergency Vehicles

Every driver of a motor vehicle must give free passage to the fire service vehicles and ambulances by drawing to the side of the road. Never try to follow or overtake an emergency vehicle.

7.8. Duty of a Driver in case of an Accident

it is mandatory on both the driver/owner of the vehicle to take the accident victim to the nearest doctor, and the doctor to treat the victim without waiting for any formalities.

8. DIRECTIONS FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

8.1. Going to school on foot

1. Always walk on footpath.
2. On a road without footpath, always walk on right side.
3. Never run on the road.
4. Always use zebra crossing, Traffic Signal, Sub way and over bridge.
5. Respect traffic lights.
6. Walk safety in between the vehicles parked on the road.
7. Never cross road from curves and corners.

8.2. Going to School in School Bus

1. Leave 5 mm early from home. Don't rush on the road.
2. Always stand in a queue at bus stand.
3. Never try to board a running bus.
4. After board never talk loudly or make a noise in a bus as it can distract the driver.
5. Always board the bus from the prefixed bus stop only.
6. If you are standing inside a bus, must hold to a railing.
7. Whenever you are in bus don't show any part of body outside the bus.

9. IMPORTANT DATES

1. 2011-2020 decade for Road Safety (UNO).
2. Every Year Third Sunday in the Month of November: - To remember those who died in road accidents.
3. 1st Jan to 7th Jan: Road safety week every year.