

New Traffic Rules and Fines in India



As is common knowledge, breaking traffic rules is not only illegal but even dangerous to the safety of road users. Hence, it's not surprising to see the authorities imposing penalties on traffic rule violators, with the severity of the punishment varying as per the nature of the offence. The consequences of breaking a traffic law could vary from a fine of a few hundred rupees to disqualification of the driving licence and, in some cases, even imprisonment.

Also read – [Traffic Signs in India – Road Safety Signs](#)

The penalties for traffic rule violations are revised every few years and in line with this, the punishments have been revised just a few months back. Here are all the details you should know about the new traffic rules and fines in India.

Traffic Rules in India

Other than the traffic signs that you can see on the side of the roads to remind you of some of the basic rules, there are many other things that you, as a driver, need to follow. These have been mentioned below-

- One must drive on the left side on a two-way road so that the oncoming traffic can pass through easily.
- On a one-way road, the driver should allow overtaking through the right side of the road.
- In case the driver turns left, he should make sure that his vehicle is on the left side of the road while passing through the corner.
- In case the driver has to turn right, he should drive to the center of the road and drive towards the right side of the road he is entering.
- It is compulsory for the driver to slow down at intersections and pedestrian crossings.
- In case the driver is on the main road that does not have any sort of traffic regulation, he should allow other vehicles to overtake from the right side
- Hand signals are as important as indicators, especially in bright daylight or when the indicators aren't working. Also, when the driver has to slow down, he should extend his right arm and swing it up and down to signal vehicles behind him. When stopping the vehicle, the driver has to raise the arm vertically for an indication to drivers behind him.
- However, make sure to use indicators at all times. In case of emergency, use hazard lights.
- On a two-wheeler, it's mandatory for both rider and pillion to wear an ISI-approved helmet.
- All drivers shouldn't park their vehicles near a road crossing, near traffic lights, the entrance of a building, near a fire hydrant or on a footpath.
- The registration number of vehicles should be clearly visible to all road users.
- Under no circumstances should any of the lights of the vehicle be covered by an occupant or luggage.
- The driver of a vehicle shouldn't drive in reverse on a one-way road.
- The driver should not cross the yellow line on the road even when overtaking a vehicle from the right side.
- In the case of driving from one lane to another, the relevant indicator should be used.
- The driver should never let his vehicle pass the STOP lettings painted on the road.
- One should use the Horn only when required. Also, the horn shouldn't be too loud or shrill. The horn shouldn't be sounded in no-honking zones like schools and hospitals.
- While driving, a sufficient gap should always be maintained from the vehicle right ahead to avoid a collision in case the vehicle in front slows down suddenly.
- The driver should avoid sudden braking unless really required.
- While driving a tractor or a goods vehicle, the driver should not exceed the limit of the number of passengers permitted in the vehicle.
- While carrying goods on a vehicle, the driver must not overload. Also, explosives or inflammable goods shouldn't be carried.
- Only one pillion is allowed to ride on a two-wheeler
- The driver must make way for cyclists and remember that the road is not only for motor vehicles.
- In case another vehicle is overtaking you, do not increase the speed to stop the vehicle from passing you.

- The driver should check his rearview mirror before initiating a turn.
- The driver should be alert in case the amber light is being flashed.

Also read – [Traffic Signal Rules in India – Traffic Light Rules](#)

New Traffic Rules in India 2020

With an increased number of vehicles on the road, the Government of India recently made amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act in order to update the traffic rules. The new traffic rules are already under implementation in all parts of the country to a varying degree. Hence, drivers should be aware of these rules and not violate any of them. The new traffic rules are as follows:

- In Uttarakhand, if the driver is caught talking on a mobile phone while driving, then other than having to pay a fine, the police can confiscate the mobile phone for a period of 24 hours. This order was issued by the Nanital high court.
- In Rajasthan, if any driver violates any of the traffic laws, other than having to pay a fine, the driving license can be cancelled or temporarily suspended by the same RTO where it is issued. This order comes from the Jodhpur bench of the High Court.
- Pune and Bengaluru have banned the use of loud silencers on motorcycles as these cause a lot of noise pollution and even reduce the emission control of the vehicle. They also cause a safety hazard by disturbing others.
- As per the revised Motor Vehicle Act, anyone who is found watching a video while driving a motor vehicle can be punished by the law. This has been done to avoid accidents caused by distracted drivers.
- It is illegal to park your vehicle in front of a rescue vehicle such as an ambulance, fire truck or a police vehicle. If found guilty of the above, the driver will have to pay a fine of Rs 2,000 or more.
- No person can be fined twice for the same offence unless the offence in question is overspeeding. However, if the offender has lost the receipt of the earlier fine and if he is driving the vehicle in another state, he will have to pay the fine again.

Also read – [DL Application Status](#)

Traffic Fines for Violations (From Sep 2019)

All the Traffic Rules in India are defined as per the [New Motor Vehicles \(Amendment\) Act, 2019](#). As we said, the rules and fines were last revised a few months back and have gotten more stringent than ever before. Basically, there has been a steep increase in the punishments both in monetary and imprisonment terms.

Also read – [Form of Application for New Licence to Drive a Motor Vehicle](#)

For example, in case you are caught driving without a valid insurance for your motor vehicle, the earlier penalty of Rs 1,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 3 months has been changed to a fine of Rs 2,000 and/or imprisonment of up to Rs 3 months for the first-time offence. Subsequently, the punishment is increased to a fine of Rs 4,000 and/or imprisonment of 3 months. A similar increase in severity has been witnessed even with other penalties as per the new Traffic Rules and Fines for violating them. Here is a table of all the required details-

Offence	New Penalty (From September 2019)	Old Penalty
General Offence	First-Time- Rs.500 Second-Time- Rs.1,500	First-Time- Rs.100 Second-Time- Rs.300
Road Rules Violation	Rs.500 to Rs.1,000	Nil
Travel without ticket	Rs.500	Rs.200
Disobeying orders of Authorities/Refusing to Share Demanded Information	Rs.2,000	Rs.500
Driving an Unauthorized Vehicle without License	Rs.5,000	Rs.1,000
Driving Without License	Rs.5,000	Rs.500

Driving With Disqualified License	Rs.10,000	Rs.500
Overspeeding	<p>Light Motor Vehicle:</p> <p>Rs.1,000 to Rs.2,000</p> <p>Medium Passenger or Goods Vehicle:</p> <p>Rs.2,000 to Rs.4,000 and impounding of DL for the Subsequent or Second-Time Offence.</p>	Rs.400
Rash Driving	<p>First-Time Offence:</p> <p>Imprisonment of 6 Months to 1 Year and/or Fine of Rs.1,000 to Rs.5,000</p> <p>Second-Time Offence:</p> <p>Imprisonment of up to 2 years and/or Fine up to Rs.10,000.</p>	Nil
Driving Under Influence of Alcohol or Intoxicating Substance	<p>First-Time Offence:</p> <p>Rs.10,000 and/or Imprisonment of up to 6 months.</p> <p>Second-Time Offence:</p>	Rs.2,000

	Rs.15,000 and/or Imprisonment of up to 2 years.	
Driving Oversized Vehicles without permission	Rs.5,000	Nil
Driving When Mentally/Physically Unfit	First-Time Offence: Rs.1,000 Second-Time Offence: Rs.2,000	First-Time Offence:Rs.200 Second-Time Offence:Rs.500
Accident Related Offences	First-Time Offence: Rs.5,000 and/or Imprisonment of up to 6 months. Second-Time Offence: Rs,10,000 and/or Imprisonment of up to 1 Year.	Nil
Driving Uninsured Vehicle (without valid Insurance)	First-Time Offence: Rs.2,000 and/or Imprisonment of up to 3 months. Second-Time Offence: Rs.4,000 and/or Imprisonment of up to 3 months.	Rs.1,000 and/or Imprisonment of up to 3 months.

Racing and Speed-testing	<p>First-Time Offence:</p> <p>Rs.5,000 and/or Imprisonment of up to 3 months.</p> <p>Second-Time Offence:</p> <p>Rs.10,000 and/or Imprisonment of up to 1 year.</p>	Rs.500
Vehicle Without Permit	Rs.10,000 and/or Imprisonment of up to 6 months.	Up to Rs.5,000
Aggregators (Violations of Licensing Conditions)	Rs.25,000 to Rs.1 lakh	Nil
Overloading	Rs.20,000 and Rs.2,000 per extra tonne	Rs.2,000 and Rs.1,000 per extra tonne
Overloading of Passengers	Rs.1,000 per extra passenger	Nil
Not Wearing Seatbelt	Rs.1,000	Rs.100
Overloading of Two-Wheelers	Rs.2,000 and Disqualification of License for 3 months	Rs.100
Not Wearing Helmet	Rs.1,000 and Disqualification of License for 3 months	Rs.100

Not Providing Way for Emergency Vehicles	Rs.10,000 and/or Imprisonment of 6 months	Nil
Offences by Juveniles	Rs.25,000 with Imprisonment of 3 years for which the Guardian / Owner shall be deemed to be guilty.	Nil
Power of Officers to Impound Documents	Suspension of DL under Section 183, 184, 185, 189, 190, 194C, 194D, 194E	Nil
Offences Committed by Enforcing Officers	Double the Penalty under Relevant Section	Nil