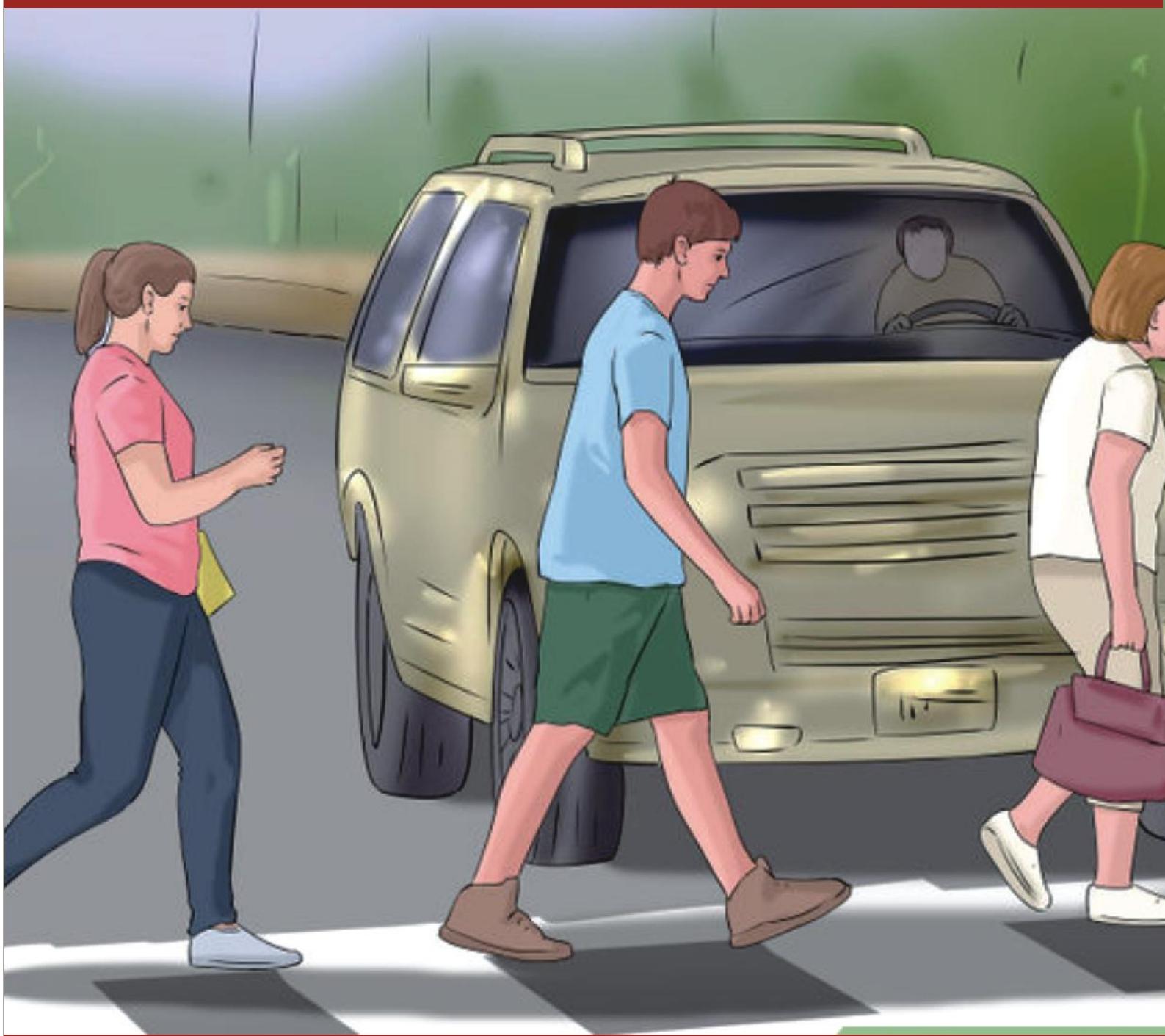


Handbook of Road Safety



Haryana State
Legal Services Authority

HARYANA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY



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Published by :

HARYANA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

Plot No.9, Sector - 14, Panchkula
Tel./Fax No. : 0172-2583309, Toll Free No.1800-180-2057
Website : www.hrlsa.nic.in, E-mail : hrlsa@hry.nic.in, hrlsa.haryana@gmail.com

INDEX

Sr. No.	Particulars	Page No.(s)
1.	CHAPTER-1	1-18
	a. Introduction	1
	b. Mandatory Road Signs	2-7
	c. Cautionary Road Signs	7-12
	d. Informatory Road Signs	13-16
	e. Provisions in Motor Vehicles Act 1988 regarding Road Signs	16-18
2.	CHAPTER-2	19-32
	a. Seat Belt	19
	b. Proper Lane Etiquette	20-22
	c. Use of Mobile Phone	22
	d. Caution at Night	22-24
	e. Driving in wet or hazardous weather	24
	f. Retro-Reflective/Reflective Tape at the back of vehicles	24-25
	g. Care to be taken at places where narrow/rural roads merge with Highways	25
	h. Overloaded Trucks prone to accidents	25-26
	i. Safe Cycling Tips	26-27
	j. Pedestrians Safety Tips	27-28
	k. Crossing the road	29-30
	l. Situations needing extra care	30
	m. Late Night Parties and Driving	31
	n. Hill Driving	31
	o Guidelines for Parents of School Children	32
3.	CHAPTER-3	33-39
	a. Helping Road Accidents Victims	33-37
	b. Judgments of Supreme Court of India	37-39

CHAPTER-I

(a) Introduction

Road accident deaths and injuries undermines the universal human right of "right to life". Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights states that "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person". As vehicle use in developing countries is increasing, road traffic injuries are expected to become the third leading cause of death and disability worldwide by 2020. The human toll in accidents is tragic. Survivors and family members are affected not only by an immediate death or disability, but also lifetime psychological and physical suffering. Crashes often result in orphans, and some victims, as young as infants, spend the rest of their lives with disabilities.

Road accidents are also the single biggest killer of people in India. An alarming number of families have fallen into poverty after losing their primary breadwinners to such accidents. The majority of road accident related deaths are at present of "vulnerable road users, pedestrians, pedal cyclists and motorcyclists. Road safety is the need of the hour. Road safety is primarily meant about the protection and security of all those who travel on roads. It encapsulates all -- from pedestrians to animal-drawn vehicles and from two-wheelers to all types of multi-wheel transport. The success of road safety strategies depends upon a broad base of support and common action from all stakeholders.

It is more often seen that people are hesitant to render immediate help to the road accident victims. The victims lay wounded on the road for some time till the arrival of police. Delay in rendering medical help in such cases sometimes is fatal. Good Samaritans have the fear of legal consequences, involvement in litigation and repeated visits to police station. There is urgent need to spread awareness about the legal protection to Good Samaritans. There is need to build confidence amongst the public to help road accident victims. Awareness needs to be spread that save life must be the top priority.

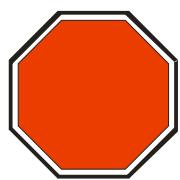
This handbook has been prepared to help you become better informed about road safety, road rules and protection to bystander or good samaritans.

Road Signs

Every person, he may be passenger, driver, pedestrian would have noticed along the roadside various sign boards that serve important purposes. These important road paraphernalia help us as route guides, warnings and traffic regulator. Road signs are a common sight as you drive along any busy road or motorway. These signs are very important and hence one should know how to read them in order to avoid accidents on the road. Road signs give out a number of messages regarding the road and what a driver should expect on the road. Therefore, if followed properly, road signs help maintain discipline on the road. Road signs are placed in a manner that makes them visible to the driver from a distance. Before venturing on the road it is quite important to have comprehensive knowledge of road signs and markings. As control devices for traffic, signs need full attention, respect and appropriate driver's response.

(b) Mandatory Road Signs

These signs are obligatory. These signs indicate what must one do, rather than must not do. Mandatory Road signs are generally round in shape with red border. Some of them are blue in colour. 'Stop' and 'Give Way' are octagon and triangular, respectively, in shape. Violation of these signs attract heavy fines and punishments. Importantly, violation of these could lead to major accidents also.

	Stop This is one of the most important and prominent Road Signs. This sign indicates that Driver should immediately stop. Usually Police, traffic and toll authorities use this sign at check posts.
	Give way This sign used at roundabouts where a specific lane discipline is to be followed. This sign directs the traffic to give way to the fellow traffic on your right side.
	No Entry This sign notifies that entry is prohibited for all vehicles. Certain pockets of an area or road are demarcated as 'no entry' areas for traffic. This could be entry to a restricted area or no traffic zone. So the driver should obey it and divert his

	route.
	Priority for Oncoming Traffic This sign, at the entrance of road, indicates the priority should be given to oncoming traffic. At narrow section of road where passing is difficult or impossible, traffic is regulated by preferable movement.
	All Motor Vehicles Prohibited This sign signifies that there should be no movement of traffic in the designated area either from outside or within. This is used to decongest the area. It is also used at pedestrian areas.
	Truck Prohibited As sign itself speaks the area designated is a no entry zone for Trucks or HMV. These could be narrow lanes or congested areas where entry of heavy transport vehicle could obstruct smooth flow of traffic.
	Bullock & Hand Cart Prohibited This sign indicates that the road has been prohibited for plying of Bullock & Hand Carts. These slow moving carts many a times hinder the smooth flow of traffic.
	Bullock Cart Prohibited The slowest form of transport many a times becomes obstruction to the free flow of traffic hence certain zones have been demarcated where bullock carts are not allowed to ply.
	Tongas Prohibited Tongas or Horse carts were extensively used as a popular means of transport in recent past. With the advent of new and faster means of transport this vehicle becomes hurdle in the smooth traffic flow. Certain areas/roads have been prohibited for Tongas.
	Hand Cart Prohibited This sign indicates that the Hand Cart is prohibited on the demarcated road as it would hinder the flow of fast moving traffic.

	Cycle Prohibited <p>In order to ensure that safety of cyclists certain roads which are meant for fast moving vehicles are prohibited for cyclists. So the cyclists should not use the roads where this sign has been installed.</p>
	Pedestrians Prohibited <p>This sign restricts the movement of pedestrian on road or the adjoining area. This could be lane for fast moving vehicles, highways etc. This could be installed at intersection where alternate crossing arrangements like underpass, foot over bridge etc are there for crossing the road.</p>
	Right Turn Prohibited <p>This sign directs driver not to turn towards right side in any circumstance.</p>
	Left Turn Prohibited <p>This sign indicates that left turn is prohibited.</p>
	U-turn Prohibited <p>This sign can be seen at some of the busy intersection on roads. The U-turn at these intersection could result in major accidents or traffic jams. The driver should not violate this sign to avoid fine and any untoward incident.</p>
	Overtaking Prohibited <p>With advancement in highways and automobile technology speed of vehicles has increased. With this, overtaking has become very crucial on road. Places where the roads are narrow, at bridges, at turns, overtaking becomes dangerous. At these places this sign is installed which prohibits overtaking ensuring safety.</p>
	Horn Prohibited <p>Excessive and unnecessary honking is treated as unruly behaviour in modern society. However, there are silence zones where honking is completely prohibited such as near hospitals, schools etc. This sign directs driver to respect the silence zone and not to use horn.</p>

	Width Limit <p>This sign indicates the width of the vehicle, which is allowed to enter the zone beyond it. The vehicle with width above 2 meters is restricted to enter this zone. This could be a bridge or a narrow lane.</p>
	Height Limit <p>There are certain roads which pass under bridges, railway lines etc of low height. To avoid any untoward incident authorities earmark height of vehicle which can easily pass under the bridge. The specified limit should be strictly adhered to avoid accidents and penal action.</p>
	Length Limit <p>This sign on road indicates that length of the vehicle, which can be manoeuvred through that passage. It could be a sharp turn, a hairpin bend etc. This is meant for long and oversized vehicle which cannot negotiate a safe turn.</p>
	Load Limit <p>This road sign limits the load of the vehicle which should ply on the road further. This sign indicates that a vehicle weighing more than 5 tonnes cannot use the road further as there may be a bridge which cannot bear the weight beyond 5 tonnes or the road is soft to accommodate the weight of the vehicle.</p>
	Axle Load Limit <p>This sign is usually installed before a bridge. It indicates the load that bridge can bear. The limit of this sign is 4 tonnes which indicates that only vehicles with axle load of 4 tonnes or less can pass over this bridge.</p>
	Speed Limit <p>This sign designates the speed of traffic on road. The limit specified must be invariably followed to avoid penal action and accidents on the road.</p>
	No Parking <p>This sign is very significant in major cities. It prohibits parking of a vehicle in the designated area. Any vehicle parked here is towed away and occupants/driver is liable to penal action. Therefore, drivers should park their vehicle in authorized parking areas only.</p>

	<p>No Stopping Or Standing</p> <p>Some roads demand continuous flow of traffic and stopping of one vehicle disrupt the whole traffic flow. At these areas 'No Stopping' signs are installed. Any vehicle stopping at these places could meet an accident and also a penal action.</p>
	<p>Compulsory Turn Left (Right If Symbol is Reversed)</p> <p>One has to turn towards left after seeing this sign. This may have been installed due to diversion.</p>
	<p>Compulsory Ahead (Ahead Only)</p> <p>This sign indicates the traffic should move in straight direction and turning to either side would lead to penal action and safety hazard.</p>
	<p>Compulsory Turn Right Ahead (Left If Symbol is Reversed)</p> <p>This sign directs the driver to turn right only. Obeying this sign will lead to safety and hassle free drive.</p>
	<p>Compulsory Ahead Or Turn Right</p> <p>This sign directs the traffic to either move straight or take right turn. Turning towards left is prohibited.</p>
	<p>Compulsory Ahead Or Turn Left</p> <p>This sign directs the traffic to either move straight or take left turn. Turning towards right is prohibited. Violation of these sign may jeopardize your safety and may also lead to penal action.</p>
	<p>Compulsory Keep Left</p> <p>This sign indicates that the driver should drive in left lane for smooth traffic flow. This sign is installed mainly on the roads which do not have divider in between and two way traffic flows on the same road.</p>

	Compulsory Cycle Track Compulsory cycle track signifies that cyclists should compulsorily use this track. It also restricts the movement of any traffic accept cyclists on the track.
	Compulsory Sound Horn There are conditions when blowing horn becomes compulsory. While manoeuvring a blind turn especially in hilly roads blowing horn before turn is one of the safety measures. Whenever you see this sign blow horn to let oncoming traffic know your presence on road.
	Compulsory Minimum Speed This sign indicates that vehicles using the Road, at the entrance to which the sign is placed shall travel at the specified speed. The limit specified must be invariably followed to avoid penal action and accidents on the road.
	Restriction Ends Any restriction conveyed through sign on road ends here. This sign indicates that the restriction imposed by the sign/signs is no more valid beyond this point. However, drivers should not be complacent and take care of all safety measure to avoid accidents.

(c) Cautionary Road Signs

These signs are meant to caution the driver about the hazards/situation lying ahead on the road. The driver should obey these for his safety. Though violation of these Road sign do not attract any legal action, they are very important for the fact that avoiding them could result in major accidents. Cautionary signs are triangular in shape with red border.

	Right Hand Curve This sign cautions you about a Right Hand Curve on the road ahead. This helps you in maneuvering vehicle accordingly and nullifies the possibility of accident due to sudden appearance of turn.
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	Left Hand Curve This sign cautions you about a Left Hand Curve on the road ahead. This also helps you in maneuvering vehicle accordingly. You get time to slow your speed and set your eyes on the curve. It also reduces the possibility of accident due to sudden appearance of turn.
	Right Hair Pin Bend Hair Pin Bends are sharp turns especially on hilly roads. This sign cautions you about a sharp right turn on the road ahead. It gives time to reduce the speed to manage the turn and also sets eyes of the driver on turn. Absence of this sign could lead to major accidents as sharp bends in hilly road don't get sighted easily.
	Left Hair Pin Bend This sign cautions you about a sharp left turn on the road ahead. These are essentially erected on hilly roads. It gives time to reduce the speed to manage the turn and also sets eyes of the driver on turn. Absence of this sign could lead to major accidents as sharp bends in hilly road don't get sighted easily.
	Right Reverse Bend This road sign indicates that actual design i.e. a sort of Z formation of the road ahead. It cautions the driver about the zig zag turn towards Right. The driver should reduce the speed at the sight of this sign and maneuver the vehicle cautiously.
	Left Reverse Bend This road sign indicates the actual design i.e. a sort of Z formation of the road ahead. It cautions the driver about the zig zag turn towards Left. The driver should reduce the speed at the sight of this sign and maneuver the vehicle cautiously.
	Steep Ascent This road indicates that there is steep ascent ahead and driver should get ready to climb and put the vehicle in relevant gear. Most of the times, these signs are found on hilly road where steep ascent and descent are normal part of travel.

	Steep Descent <p>This road sign indicates that there is steep descent ahead and driver should get ready to descent by putting the vehicle in relevant gear. One should not try to speed up on descent as it lossens the grip on vehicle. Most of the times, these signs are found on hilly road where steep ascent and descent are normal part of travel.</p>
	Narrow Road Ahead <p>When the width of the road decreases and the road merges into a narrow road, there is a possibility that a speeding vehicle may collide with oncoming traffic. This sign cautions the driver to be careful as the road ahead is narrow.</p>
	Road Widens Ahead <p>This sign signifies that the road ahead is wide. The width of the road widens after this sign and thus traffic should adjust accordingly.</p>
	Narrow Bridge <p>Sometimes road converges to a bridge which is of less width than that of road. This sign is erected before such bridges which are narrower than the road. The driver should reduce the speed and watch for oncoming traffic for safe drive.</p>
	Slippery Road <p>This sign indicates the slippery condition of the road ahead. This condition could be due to seepage of water or oil spill etc. The driver should invariably slow down the vehicle at sight of this sign to avoid accident.</p>
	Loose Gravel <p>This sign is usually erected on hilly roads where loose earth or gravely keeps on falling on the road. Driver should drive slowly and carefully after this sign as little carelessness can cause major accidents here.</p>
	Cycle Crossing <p>This road sign indicates that there is a cycle path intersecting the major road or is frequented by cyclists. The driver should carefully cross this intersection so that cyclist could cross the major road safely.</p>

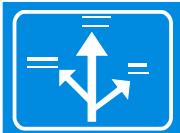
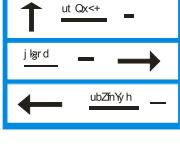
	Pedestrian Crossing Pedestrian is the king of traffic. This sign cautions the driver to either slow down or stop the vehicle and allow the pedestrian to cross the road. The part of road is also demarcated in white strips known as zebra crossing. At zebra crossing the Pedestrian has first right on the road.
	School Ahead This road sign indicates that there is a school ahead/nearby. Driver is required to slow down the vehicle and drive carefully to avoid accidents. Children often try to cross the road by running or make unprecedented moves. So for their safety always drive carefully near school.
	Traffic Signal This sign on road indicates that this road is regulated by three-colour light signals, as driver may not expect such section of some roads.
	Cattle This sign indicate that there is great possibility of cattle straying on the road. Cattle on road can cause major accidents as animal reacts unpredictably in traffic. So drive carefully wherever you see this sign.
	Ferry Sometimes roads are intersected by the river without the provision of bridge. These roads are connected through ferry service. This sign indicates that there is a ferry service available to cross the river.
	Falling Rocks In hilly roads the rocks fall on road during landslides in extreme climates. This sign shows that the road ahead is prone to such falling of rocks and driver should drive carefully to avoid accident.
	Dangerous Dip This sign cautions that there is a dip on road ahead. This sign helps driver to reduce the speed to cross the plunge on road.

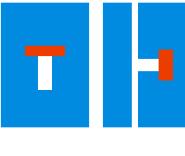
	<p>Hump or Rough Road</p> <p>Sometimes there is a hump on road intentionally created for slowing the traffic. This sign cautions the driver that he should reduce the speed to cross the hump comfortably.</p>
	<p>Barrier Ahead</p> <p>Many a times the road passes through toll collection point/check posts etc. One can find barriers on such places. This sign indicates that there is a barrier ahead on the road and vehicle has to stop there.</p>
	<p>Gap in Median</p> <p>This sign indicates that there is a gap in the divider of a road and there is a provision of U-turn. The driver should slow and take relevant lane to avoid any accident.</p>
	<p>Cross Road</p> <p>This sign indicates that there is a crossing of roads ahead. This sign indicates that the vehicle should be slowed and intersection should be crossed cautiously by looking on both sides.</p>
	<p>Side Road Left/Right</p> <p>This sign belongs to the family of Give Way signs. This particular sign indicates that there is side road on left/right. The user of the side road must give way to the traffic.</p>
	<p>Y-Intersection</p> <p>These roads signs cautions about the actual formation of road ahead. The road is divided into two in the shape of y. This helps driver in managing the intersection carefully.</p>
	<p>Y-Intersection</p> <p>These road signs cautions about the actual formation of road ahead. The road is divided into two in the shape of Y. This helps driver in managing the intersection carefully.</p>
	<p>T-Intersection</p> <p>This sign cautions about that there is T-intersection on the road ahead and there is no forward movement. Traffic has to either turn left or right. This helps driver in planning his movement on road.</p>

	<p>Staggered Intersection</p> <p>These signs indicate that there is a left and right turn available on the straight road with small distance between them. It is an intersection which does not allow crossing of road.</p>
	<p>Men At Work</p> <p>This sign shows that there is some repair/cleaning etc. being under-taken on the road and workers are involved in it. People working on road need safety from the traffic and hence this sign is erected before the site of repair on road. The driver should drive slowly and carefully to ensure safety of the workers.</p>
	<p>Round About</p> <p>Round About is a substitute of a road intersection. It allows smooth flow of traffic without the aid of traffic lights. This sign cautions about that there is a roundabout ahead and the driver has to take relevant lane well before maneuvering the round about.</p>
	<p>Guarded Level Crossing</p> <p>Many a times road intersects the railway line. This sign indicates that there is a Railway crossing which is guarded by a person. The driver should take extra precautions and act accordingly. Single or double red stripe indicates that the crossing is at 100 mtrs. or 200 mtrs. respectively.</p>
	<p>Unguarded Level Crossing</p> <p>This sign indicates that there is a Railway crossing which is not manned by personnel. This unguarded railway crossing has to be crossed by driver himself very cautiously after ensuring that there is no train on the track nearby single or double red stripe indicates that the crossing is at 100 mtrs. or 200 mtrs. respectively.</p>
	<p>Quayside or River Bank</p> <p>This sign indicates that this road leads on to quay or river bank. Drivers should take care and drive cautiously.</p>

(d) Informative Road Signs

These signs are meant to provide information on direction, destination, roadside facilities, etc. to the road user. Following informative road signs helps a driver in saving time, reaching destination without wandering around. These signs are generally facilitators to the driver and signs are normally blue in colour. The sign may have direction arrow and also the distance of facility from the sign.

	Advance Direction Sign <p>This sign indicates the direction to various destinations falling on that particular road. These signs are generally installed before inter-sections.</p>
	Advance Destination Sign on Rotary Intersection <p>This advance sign is erected before an intersection indicating the way to destination by arrows, facilitating the driver to ensure that he is on correct route.</p>
	Advance Direction Sign (With Distances) <p>This sign indicates the direction and distance to various destinations falling on that particular road. These signs are generally installed before intersections.</p>
	Direction Sign <p>This sign shows direction and distance of the destination/place written on it. This sign board helps drivers in locating the places and thus is very helpful in saving time and fuel.</p>
	Confirmatory Sign <p>This sign assures the driver that he is on right path and also tells the distance of the places written on it.</p>
	Place Identification Sign <p>This sign identifies the area. This sign tells that the limit of the particular area has started. This sign is illustrative on national highways.</p>

	<p>Petrol Pump</p> <p>This informative sign indicates that there is a Petrol Pump ahead. Sometimes distance is also indicated on this sign which gives an idea about location of the Petrol Pump from the sign post.</p>
	<p>Hospital</p> <p>This sign indicates that there is Hospital nearby. The driver should be careful while driving through this stretch should not honk unnecessarily.</p>
	<p>First Aid Post</p> <p>This sign shows that there is a First Aid facility nearby which is very useful in case of emergency or accidents. These signs are normally erected on highways and rural roads.</p>
 500m	<p>Eating Place</p> <p>This sign indicates that there is an eating place in the vicinity. This sign is common on highways and long stretches of road.</p>
	<p>Light Refreshment</p> <p>This sign indicates that there is facility of light refreshment nearby on the road.</p>
	<p>Resting Place</p> <p>This sign is erected near motel, lodge or any other place where facility for resting is available. These signs can be seen on highways.</p>
	<p>No Thorough Road</p> <p>"No Through Road" sign indicates that there is no throughway. This sign informs drivers the there is no way ahead on the road.</p>
	<p>Bus Stop</p> <p>This sign indicates Bus Stop. It shows that all buses (public transport) will stop at this place.</p>

	<p>Railway Station</p> <p>This sign indicates location of Railway Station.</p>
	<p>Public Telephone</p> <p>This sign indicates the availability of Telephone near road.</p>
	<p>Tunnel Ahead</p> <p>This sign indicates the tunnel on road. This sign sometimes may also indicate the name and length of tunnel.</p>
	<p>Pedestrian Subway</p> <p>This sign indicates entry to a pedestrian underpass/subway. Pedestrians should invariably use these underpass/subway to cross the road.</p>
	<p>Park Both Sides</p> <p>“Parking” sign indicates places where the parking of vehicles is authorized for particular type of vehicle. Drivers should, therefore, ensure that they are parking their vehicles at right and authorized place. Like this sign signifies that vehicles can be parked on both sides.</p>
	<p>Parking Lot-Cycles</p> <p>“Parking” sign indicates places where the parking of vehicles is authorized for particular type of vehicle. Drivers should, therefore, ensure that they are parking their vehicles at right and authorized place. Like this sign signifies that this place is reserved for parking cycles.</p>
	<p>Parking Lot-Cycle Rickshaws</p> <p>“Parking” sign indicates places where the parking of vehicles is authorized for particular type of vehicle. Drivers should, therefore, ensure that they are parking their vehicles at right and authorized place. Like this sign signifies that this place is reserved for parking cycles rickshaws.</p>

	<p>Parking Lot-Scooters & Motor Cycles</p> <p>“Parking” sign indicates places where the parking of vehicles is authorized for particular type of vehicle. Drivers should, therefore, ensure that they are parking their vehicles at right and authorized place. Like this sign signifies that this place is reserved for parking scooters and motorcycles.</p>
	<p>Parking Lot-Taxis</p> <p>“Parking” sign indicates places where the parking of vehicles is authorized for particular type of vehicle. Drivers should, therefore, ensure that they are parking their vehicles at right and authorized place. Like this sign signifies that this place is reserved for parking care only.</p>
	<p>Parking Lot-Auto Rickshaws</p> <p>“Parking” sign indicates places where the parking of vehicles is authorized for particular type of vehicle. Drivers should, therefore, ensure that they are parking their vehicles at right and authorized place. Like this sign signifies that this place is reserved for parking auto rickshaws only.</p>

(e) Provisions in Motor Vehicles Act 1988 regarding Road Signs

Section 116

Power to erect Traffic Signs –(1) (a) The State Government or any authority authorized in this behalf by the State Government may cause or permit traffic signs to be placed or erected in any public place for the purpose of bringing to public notice any speed limits fixed under sub-section (2) of section 112 or any prohibitions or restrictions imposed under section 115 or generally for the purpose of regulating motor vehicle traffic.

(b) A State Government or any authority authorized in this behalf by the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette or by the erection at suitable places of the appropriate traffic sign referred to in part A of the Schedule, designate certain roads as main roads for the purposes of the driving regulations made by the Central Government.

- (1) Traffic Signs placed or erected under sub-section
- (2) For any purpose for which provision is made in the schedule shall be of the size, colour and type and shall have the meanings set forth in the Schedule, but the State Government or any authority empowered in this behalf by the State Government may make or authorize the addition to any sign set forth in the said schedule, of transcriptions of the words, letters or figures thereon in such script as the State Government may think fit provided that the transcriptions shall be similar size and colour to the words, letters or figures set forth in the schedule.
- (3) Except as provided by sub-section (1), no traffic sign shall, after the commencement of this Act, be placed or erected on or near any road; but all traffic signs placed or erected prior to the commencement of this Act by any competent authority shall for the purpose of this Act be deemed to be traffic signs placed or erected under the provisions of sub-section(1).
- (4) A State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, empower any police officer not below the rank of a Superintendent of Police to remove the cause to be removed any sign or advertisement which in his opinion as to obscure any traffic sign from view or any sign or advertisement which in his opinion is so similar in appearance to a traffic sign as to be misleading or which in his opinion is likely to distract the attention or concentration of the driver.
- (5) No person shall willfully remover, alter, deface or in any way tamper with, any traffic signs placed or erected this section.
- (6) If any person accidentally causes such damage to a traffic sign an renders it useless for the purpose for which it is placed or erected under this section, he shall report the circumstances of the occurrence to a police officer or at a police station as soon as possible, and if any case within twenty- four hours of the occurrence.
- (7) For the purpose of bringing the sign set forth in *(the first schedule) in conformity with any International Convention relating to motor traffic to which

the Central Government is for the time being a party, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make any addition or alteration to any such sign and on the issue of any such notification, *(the first schedule) shall be deemed to be amended accordingly.

Section 118

Driving Regulations- The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make regulations for the driving of motor vehicles (Under this provision the Central Government has issued the rule of Road Regulation, 1989, which are to be followed by all road users).

Section 119

Duty to obey traffic signs- (1) Every driver of a motor vehicle shall drive the vehicle in conformity with any indication given by mandatory traffic sign and in conformity with the driving regulations made by the central Government, and shall comply with all directions given to him by any police officer for the time being engaged in the regulation of traffic in any public place.

(2) In this section “mandatory traffic sign” means a traffic sign included in Part A of +[the first Schedule], or any traffic sign of similar form (that is to say, consisting of or including a circular disc displaying a device, word or figure and having a red ground or border) placed or erected for the purpose of regulating motor vehicle traffic under sub-section (1) of section 116.

CHAPTER-2

(a) Seat Belt

Wearing seat belt is one of the measures to reduce the severity of injury during road crashes. Wearing safety gears like seat belts while driving or travelling in cars is found to double the chances of survival in case of any serious crash. Use of seat belt while driving reduces the risk of fatality of an occupant by over 50% during an accident.

With research it has now been found that passengers sitting in rear seats are also equally vulnerable during accident as one sitting in front seat. Hence it becomes necessary to restrain the passengers sitting in rear seats also.

Seat belts secure the passengers and driver when a collision forces vehicle to a sudden halt and do not get the occupants thrown away from the vehicle.

Seat Belt for children

- Ensure children who are unable to use a seatbelt are secured in an appropriate child car seat or booster seat.
- Research has shown that children under age 13 are safest in child restraint seats at the back seat of motor vehicles away from active airbags.
- From 1st January, 2016, all passenger motor vehicles sold in India are equipped with the provision for the installation of Child Restraint System (CRS). CRS is a 5-point harness. The CRS straps over the shoulders and lap of a child are to provide greater restraint to the child in the event of a collision. The CRS harness comes with a child seat which is always placed in the rear seat so that the child does not have airbag in front of her/him.

Dos and Don't

- Motor vehicle drivers and all front facing passengers must wear seatbelt.
- Seatbelt must be properly adjusted and securely fastened.
- If you wear a seatbelt properly, you are more likely to survive a crash.
- Wear your seatbelt so that it across your chest and your lower hips- these areas of the body are better able to resist the force of a crash.
- Make sure you have one working seatbelt for every person in your vehicle.
- Car owners and taxi drivers must make sure that their cars have seatbelts in good working order.
- Do not wear any part of your seatbelt twisted- a twisted seatbelt won't spread the force of a crash across your body to protect you properly.
- Do not put the shoulder strap under your arm or behind your back.
- Do not replace seatbelts with car air bags. They won't prevent you or your passengers from being thrown out of your car, they can also injure children. Seat belts works best in combination with airbags.
- Always place children under 12 years of age in suitable child restraint seats.

(b) Proper Lane Etiquette

The salient features of Lane driving on the Indian Highways are as follows:

- **Point 1.** When on a 4 ways highway (2 lanes on each side), always stay on the leftmost lane and use the right lane to only overtake the vehicle in front. The driving behaviour changes in case you are on a 6 lane Highway (3 lanes on each side).The speed of vehicles increases as one moves from the leftmost lane to the rightmost lane. Hence the

leftmost lane is usually for the slower vehicles such as trucks and 2 wheelers. The safe bet is to be on the middle lane if one is driving a car and use the rightmost lane only to overtake the slower vehicle in front. While driving fast on the rightmost lane could be a pleasure in case you are already at high speed. An important point to note is to give way to the faster vehicle which is coming behind you in the same rightmost lane. In case a faster vehicle comes behind you on the rightmost lane, it is best to put your left indicator and move to the middle lane to give way to the speeding vehicle. This would allow a safe passage to the vehicle behind. This applies only to the vehicles on the rightmost lane. Speeding vehicles behind your car that is already on the middle lane would automatically change to the rightmost lane to overtake.

- **Point 2.** Any lane switching in a 4 lane or a 6 lane highway must first start with the relevant indicator light to change lanes. The general consensus around the world is that once your indicator of the car in front of you is On, the driver in front would change his/her lane within the next 5- 10 seconds. Hence it is all the more important to respect the driver in front of you if he/she turns on the indicator to change the lane. Most accidents on the 6 lane highways occur either because of incorrect switching of lanes or because of slow vehicles travelling on the wrong lane (rightmost lane).Also one must not zigzag his way across from the leftmost to the rightmost lane without watching out for incoming vehicles. It is common in India to overtake a vehicle by honking. One must be careful here because at high speeds honking would usually not be audible. Hence it is better to flash your headlight and wait for the vehicle in front to give way.
- **Point 3 .**The most important thing to remember is that in case your vehicle breaks down on the highway, it is important to turn on the Hazard warning and move your vehicle carefully to the service lane (leftmost part of the highway). One must be careful to notice any problems in the vehicle before a breakdown and quickly move to the leftmost lane in case of any emergency. Also if a vehicle is moving in

front of you with its hazard light on, one must be extra cautious as the driver in front is indicating that his /her vehicle is in trouble and he is bound to move across in any direction.

(c) Use of Mobile phone

Why is it dangerous to use a mobile phone while driving?

Mobile phone use while driving is common, but widely considered dangerous due to the distraction it causes during driving. Due to the large number of accidents related to cell phone use while driving, use of a cell phone while driving is made illegal.

- Studies show that drivers using a hands-free or handled mobile phone are slower at recognizing and reacting to hazards.
- Even careful drivers can be distracted by a call or text- and a split-second lapse in concentration could result in a crash.
- Research shows that the ability of drivers to keep a vehicle in its lane diminishes by 91 percent when texting on a mobile phone.
- A mobile phone can distract a driver in various ways. Even a phone ring can cause an accident.
- Normally it is expected that if a pedestrian starts crossing the road suddenly, a driver will try to react to stop the car. But if the driver is using a mobile phone, then there will be a risk that the driver will not be able to respond in time and ultimately cause an accident. The worst part is that there are many motorcycle and bicycle riders who try to use mobile phones in the middle of the street without stopping. Mostly it happens because people are not aware of the possible consequences.

(d) Caution at Night

(i) Driving at Night

The distance that you can see ahead and to the side is severely reduced after dark. This means that it will take you longer to respond to hazards after dark. About one-third of serious crashes occur after dark. Driving at night requires extra caution and alertness. Be alert for pedestrians, bicycles, animals and hand drawn vehicles that travel without light and are difficult to see. Your headlights show you what is straight ahead, but not what is around corners or bends in the road. When entering curves at night, slow down and drive carefully.

- Drive at a slow speed to get a safe reaction and stoppage time.
- Turn on the headlights when darkness falls.
- Drive with dipped headlights in places where the roads are properly lit.
- Keep the headlights clear and clean and check them frequently. Also carry spare bulbs.
- Keep your windscreen clean because dirty windscreen can impair your vision.
- Avoid looking to the dazzling light if an oncoming vehicle is driving in high beam and gradually slow down your speed.
- To reduce the glare of lights following you, switch your interior rear-view mirror to the night position or slightly tilt it or tilt the exterior rear-view mirrors.
- Do not mistake cock-eyed vehicle – a vehicle with one fused headlamp – for a two-wheeler.
- Before overtaking, ensure that the oncoming vehicle is at a safe distance.

(ii) Cyclists During Night

- Wear light-coloured or fluorescent clothing which helps other road users see you in daylight and poor light.
- Wear reflective clothing and/or accessories (belt, arm or ankle bands) in the dark.

- At night, your cycle must have white front and red rear lights lit. It must also be fitted with a red rear reflector (and amber pedal reflectors). White front reflectors and spoke reflectors will also help you to be seen. Flashing lights are permitted but it is recommended that cyclists who are riding in areas without street lighting use a steady front lamp.
- At night, use lit front and rear lights and have a red rear reflector.

(e) Driving in wet or hazardous weather

It is difficult to see clearly in rain. To improve safety when driving in wet weather:

- be sure that your windscreen wipers are in good condition and your windscreen is clean
- turn your headlights on to low beam;
- You need to be especially observant while driving in the rain as pedestrians and cyclists can be difficult to see.
- It takes longer to stop when the road is wet, so do not follow another vehicle too closely when it is raining.

(f) Retro-Reflective/Reflective Tape at the back of vehicles

Retro-reflective sheets and tapes are being increasingly used as a prime safety aid for easy, visibility of vehicles on both urban roads and highways. The affixing of these tapes adds to the existing safety pre-requisites fitted on the vehicles and is intended as auxiliary safety aid for warning the unwary vehicles, pedestrians and others of a hazard and as side markers indicating the outer limits and projections in the case of heavy vehicles, etc.

In traffic, fatal crash rate is 3-4 times more likely during night-time than daytime. A misconception many people have is that retro-reflectivity is only important during night-time travel. It is also useful during foul weather, such as rain and snow.

Installation of retro-reflective tapes on vehicles helps in ensuring safety of vehicle, its occupants and other vehicle sharing the road. Hence installation of retro-reflective tapes has been made mandatory and detailed specifications have been laid in Clause 104 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989.

As per the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, it is mandatory for all vehicles to have at-

least one red reflex reflector at the rear.

It is not just enough to randomly cover your commercial vehicle with retro reflective tape. Rather, the tape should be placed in locations on your truck or trailer where the material would be most effective. These areas shall be on the sides of the trailer, the lower rear section of the trailer, the upper rear section of the trailer and the rear section of your truck.

On the sides of your trailer, your reflective tape should be positioned as horizontally as possible, beginning and ending as close to the front and the rear as practically possible. The tape need not be continuous; rather you could have evenly spaced sections of tape. However, the sum of the length of your tape should be about half the length of the trailer.

For trucks, reflective tape should be positioned as close as possible to the edges of mud flaps or their support brackets, or on the rear fenders. Tape should also be mounted on the upper contours of the truck's cab, similar to how these would appear on the upper rear section of a trailer.

(g) Care to be taken at places where narrow/rural roads merge with Highways

It is important for a driver to learn how to merge onto the highway without crashing using right techniques and practising good merging habits. Because highway conditions (and other drivers) are unpredictable, it is difficult to apply the same rules always to any given situation. Understanding traffic laws and having good driving reflexes are keys to merging on the highway safely.

Slow down a bit if someone is trying to merge into the highway in front of you, or speed up if that is the safer option. Stay alert and try to make things easier for the other drivers, as this makes the highway safer for everyone.

(h) Overloaded Trucks prone to accidents

Overloaded trucks are prone to accidents, more so, if driven by untrained and overworked drivers. Such vehicles on the road, means virtually letting loose killers on unsuspecting road users. A study (Road Accidents India-2014) estimated that nearly 20% of all road accidents are caused by trucks and cargo vehicles.

Ahead of the Indian railways, trucks are the most frequently used method of transport for transporting cargo in India, but unfortunately India is known to have a

very large number of road accidents in the world. Among the many reasons for this phenomenon, one of the most prominent is the practice of overloading trucks, often adopted by transporters to lower costs. A large number of vehicles on India roads consist of old vehicles. It is a common sight to see trucks that have broken down in transit, with their cargo spilling on the road.

Overloaded trucks are unfortunately an all too common sight on Indian roads. Despite laws against overloading and the subsequent amendments to make them stricter, the practice of overloading is widely prevalent in India. According to an estimate, 7 % of trucks registered in the country indulge in the illegal practice of overloading. Overloaded trucks drag their weight on the roads with complete disregard to the law and the safety of the citizens bearing serious consequences.

Parking

Before you park your vehicle, ask yourself:

is it safe to park here;

is it legal; and

will it cause trouble to other road users.

How to park

Before you move into a parking place:

check for traffic behind you;

slow down; and

give correct signals.

(i) Safe Cycling Tips

If no cycle lane exists on the road, it is recommended to ride on the left (going in the same direction as automobile traffic). Also, you should get as far to the left side of the road as possible to provide additional space between you and ongoing vehicles.

You should wear a cycle helmet which conforms to current regulations, is the correct size and securely fastened.

(1) Lane Cycling

Cycle tracks are normally located away from the road, but may occasionally be

found alongside footpaths or pavements. Cyclists and pedestrians may be segregated or they may share the same space (unsegregated). When using segregated tracks you must keep to the side intended for cyclists as the pedestrian side remains a pavement or footpath.

Take care when passing pedestrians, especially children, older or disabled people, and allow them plenty of room. Always be prepared to slow down and stop if necessary.

Cycle lanes are marked by a white line (which may be broken) along the carriageway. Keep within the lane when practicable. When leaving a cycle lane check before pulling out that it is safe to do so and signal your intention clearly to other road users.

You must not cycle on a pavement.

(2) While cycling, you should:

- Keep both hands on the handlebars except when signaling.
- Keep both feed on the pedals.
- Not ride close behind another vehicle.
- Not carry anything which will affect your balance or may get tangled up with your wheels or chain.

And you should also:

- Look all around before turning or manoeuvring, to make sure it is safe to do so. Give a clear signal to show other road users what you intend to do.
- Look well ahead for obstructions in the road, such as drains, potholes and parked vehicles so that you do not have to swerve suddenly to avoid them. Leave plenty of room when passing parked vehicles and watch out for doors being opened or pedestrians stepping into you paths.
- Be aware of traffic coming up behind you.

(j) Pedestrians Safety Tips

- For a road that has sidewalks on both sides of the road, it is acceptable to walk on the sidewalk on either side of the road (facing oncoming traffic or with your back to oncoming traffic) because you are separated from the automobiles.

Or, be on the side you are already on, because that is acceptable.

- For a road with a sidewalk only on one side, it is recommended to use the sidewalk for travelling in either direction (with traffic or against traffic). Again the sidewalk helps separate you from the automobiles.

When one must walk on the road because the area lacks pedestrian facilities such as a sidewalk, one is advised to walk on the right-side, facing oncoming traffic, as this presents opportunities to establish eye-contact with approaching motorists and make quick judgments to protect self. Do not walk with your back to overtaking traffic. Also, you should get as far to the side of the road as possible to provide additional space between you and oncoming vehicles. Pavements (including any path along the side of a road) should be used if provided. Where possible, avoid being next to the kerb with your back

- to the traffic. If you have to step into the road, look both ways first. Always show due care and consideration for others.
- If there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light. Keep close to the side of the road.
- It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.
- Help other road users to see you. Wear or carry something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions. When it is dark, use reflective materials, which can be seen by drivers using headlights from up to three times as far as away as non-reflective materials.
- Young children should not be out alone on the pavement or road. When taking children out, keep between them and the traffic and hold their hands firmly.
- Beware of stranger danger: Choose your walking route for paths frequented by other walkers, joggers and bikers. If you see someone suspicious, be prepared to alter your course or go in to a store or public building to avoid them. Acting alert and aware can convince bad guys to leave you.

(k) Crossing the road

- Look both ways before crossing any street. At controlled intersections, it is wise to cross only when you have the pedestrian crossing light, but even then, drivers and bikers may have a green light to turn and won't be expecting you to be in the crosswalk. Make eye contact with any drivers who may be turning. Give them a wave. Make sure they see you. In a car-walker interaction, you can only lose.
- First find a safe place to cross and where there is space to reach the pavement on the other side. Where there is a crossing nearby, use it. It is safer to cross using a subway, a footbridge, a zebra or signal crossing, or where there is a crossing point controlled by a police officer. Otherwise choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Try to avoid crossing between parked cars or on a blind bend. Move to a space where drivers and riders can see you clearly. Do not cross the road diagonally.
- Stop just before you get to the kerb, where you can see if anything is coming. Do not get too close to the traffic. If there is no pavement, keep back from the edge of the road but make sure you can still see approaching traffic.
- Look all around for traffic and listen. Traffic could come from any direction. Listen as well, because you can sometimes hear traffic before you see it.
- If traffic is coming, let it pass. Look all around again and listen. Do not cross until there is a safe gap in the traffic and you are certain that there is plenty of time. Remember, even if traffic is a long way off, it may be approaching very quickly.
- When it is safe, go straight across the road- do not run. Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross, in case there is any traffic you did not see, or in case other traffic appears suddenly. Look out for cyclists and motorcyclists travelling between lanes of traffic. Do not walk diagonally across the road.
- Where there are divider railings on road, cross the road only at the gaps provided for pedestrians. Do not climb over the railing or barriers to cross the road.
- If you have to cross between parked vehicles, use the outside edges of the vehicles as if they were the kerb. Stop there and make sure you can see all

around and that the traffic can see you. Make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so you can reach the pavement. Never cross the road in front of, or behind, any vehicle with its engine running, especially if a large vehicle, as the driver may not be able to see you.

- Never cross behind a vehicle which is reversing, showing white reversing lights or sounding a warning.
- You must not get onto or hold onto a moving vehicle.
- At night, wear something reflective to make it easier for others to see you. If there is no pedestrian crossing nearby, cross the road near a streetlight so that traffic can see you more easily.
- At all crossings, when using any type of crossing, jay walkers on the road can be slapped with fine.
- At zebra crossings, give traffic plenty of time to see you and to stop before you start to cross. Vehicles will need more time when the road is slippery. Wait until traffic has stopped from both directions and the road is clear before crossing. Remember that traffic does not have to stop until someone has moved onto the crossing. Keep looking both ways, and listening, in case a driver or rider has not seen you and attempts to overtake a vehicle that has stopped.

(I) Situations needing extra care

- If an ambulance, fire engine, police or other emergency vehicle approaches using flashing blue lights, headlights and/or sirens, keep off the road
- Get on or off a bus only when it has stopped to allow you to do so. Watch out for cyclists when you are getting off. Never cross the road directly behind or in front of a bus. Wait until it has moved off and you can see clearly in both directions
- At railway level crossing, you must not cross or pass a stop line when the red lights show, (including a red pedestrian figure). Also do not cross if the barriers are being lowered. If there are no lights, alarms or barriers, stop, look both ways and listen before crossing.

(m) Late Night Parties and Driving

Every day we read news about accidents and young people losing their lives on road. Nobody wants such news to emanate from their family, nor do we want people loose life on road. To make society safe, following points should be kept in mind while celebrating.

- Avoid late night parties.
- Avoid alcohol in party. Don't drink and drive.
- When you feel you will get late, consider taking a driver with you.
- Always have a friend who is teetotaler and knows driving when partying late during nights.
- If somebody tells you that you are not fine to drive, believe him and do not drive.
- If you have consumed alcohol, don't drive, hire a cab for home.
- Maximum accidents take place during wee hours i.e. 2 am to 6 am.
- Driving after party could be fun but don't put your life on stake.
- Always keep your family informed.
- Take heed to these points and be a wise and safe citizen.

(n) Hill Driving

(1) Right of way

Always keep in mind that the vehicles going uphill have the right of way. Do not try to circumvent this rule as it will ultimately lead to some sort of accident.

(2) Overtaking

Never get into a contest of speed or skill with anyone on hilly roads. It will almost certainly lead to an accident. If you are going faster than the person in front of you try to overtake the vehicle at a straight stretch on the road. NEVER try to overtake at a sharp curve or blind turn. Also practise all safety measures when overtaking large commercial vehicles as it can sometimes be risky. Give the right to the trucks that are moving uphill, as they lose momentum and it becomes difficult for them to climb up once they stop or slow down.

(o) GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

1. Walk with your kids to the bus stop and wait with them until it arrives. Tell kids to stand at a safe distance from the curb as the bus approaches and board the bus one at a time.
2. Teach kids to wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting off and never to walk behind the bus.
3. Instruct younger kids to use handrails when boarding or exiting the bus. Be careful of straps or drawstrings that could get caught in the door. If your children drop something, they should tell the bus driver and make sure the bus driver is able to see them before they pick it up.
4. No fighting, shouting or playing in or around the bus.
5. Don't let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is dangerous near traffic.
6. If you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street. Children can be so excited at seeing you after school that they dash across the street and forget the safety rules.

CHAPTER -3

(a) Helping (Road) Accident Victims

India tops the list of deaths caused by road accidents. About five lakh road accidents are reported in India annually with 1.5 lakh deaths, the highest in the world, and 4.5 lakh victims of road accidents happen to be in the age group of 15 to 45 years. According to a data released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in 2014, around 1,39,671 people lost their lives in road accidents. The number translates into 382 deaths per day.

Helping road accident victims has now become free of legal and procedural hassles. Road accident fatalities can be reduced by providing the victims emergency care in time.

Notification dated 12.5.2015 issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways containing guidelines for protection of good Samaritans to be in force till appropriate legislation is framed by Union Legislature, is extracted hereunder:

“No.25035/101/2014-RS.—Whereas the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Save life Foundation and another V/s. Union Of India and another in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 235 of 2012 vide its order dated

29th October, 2014, interalia, directed the Central Government to issue necessary directions with regard to the protection of Good Samaritans until appropriate legislation is made by the Union Legislature;

And whereas, the Central Government considers it necessary to protect the Good Samaritans from harassment on the actions being taken by them to save the life of the road accident victims and, therefore, the Central Government hereby issues the following guidelines to be followed by hospitals, police and all other authorities for the protection of Good Samaritans, namely:-

(1) A bystander or good Samaritan including an eyewitness of a road accident may take an injured person to the nearest hospital, and the bystander or good Samaritan should be allowed to leave immediately except after furnishing address by the eyewitness only and no question shall be asked to such bystander or good Samaritan.

(2) The bystander or good Samaritan shall be suitably rewarded or compensated to encourage other citizens to come forward to help the road accident victims by the authorities in the manner as may be specified by the State Governments.

(3) The bystander or good Samaritan shall not be liable for any civil and criminal liability.

• At night, your cycle must have white front and red rear lights lit. It must also be fitted with a red rear reflector (and amber pedal reflectors). White front

(4) A bystander or good Samaritan who makes a phone call to inform the police or emergency services for the person lying injured on the road shall be compelled to reveal his name and personal details on the phone or in person.

(5) The disclosure of personal information such as name and contact details of the good Samaritan shall be made voluntary and optional including in the Medico Legal Case (MLC) Form provided by hospitals.

It is difficult to see clearly in rain. To improve safety when driving in wet weather:

(6) The disciplinary or departmental action shall be initiated by the Government concerned against public officials who coerce or intimidate a bystander or good Samaritan for revealing his name or personal details.

• be sure that your windscreens wipers are in good condition and your

windscreen is clean

(7) In case a bystander or good Samaritan, who has voluntarily stated that he is also an eye-witness to the accident and is required to be examined for the purposes of investigation by the police or during the trial such bystander or good Samaritan shall be

examined by a doctor especially observing the road such as pedestrian shall be examined by a doctor and the State Government shall develop standard

operating procedures to ensure that bystander or good Samaritan is not harassed or • It takes longer to stop when the road is wet, so do not follow another vehicle too

intimidated.

• closely when it is raining.

(8) The methods of examination may either be by way of a commission under (f) **Retro-Reflective/Reflective Tape at the back of Vehicles** section 284, of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 or formally on affidavit as per

section 296, of the said Code and Standard Operating Procedures shall be developed within a period of thirty days from the date when this notification is issued.

Retro-reflective sheets and tapes are being increasingly used as a prime safety aid for easy visibility of vehicles on both urban roads and highways. The affixing of these tapes adds to the existing safety pre-requisites fitted on the vehicles

(9) Video conferencing may be used extensively during examination of bystander or good Samaritan including the persons referred to in guideline (1) above, who are eye and others of a hazard and as side markers indicating the outer limits and projections witnesses in order to prevent harassment and inconvenience to good Samaritans. In the case of heavy vehicles, etc.

(10) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare shall issue guidelines stating that all traffic, fatal crash rate is 3-4 times more likely during night-time than daytime. A registered public and private hospitals are not to detain bystander or good Samaritan or misconception many people have is that retro-reflectivity is only important during demand payment for registration and admission costs, unless the good Samaritan is a night-time travel. It is also useful during foul weather, such as rain and snow.

family member or relative of the injured and the injured is to be treated immediately in

Installation of retro-reflective tapes on vehicles helps in ensuring safety of vehicle its occupants and other vehicle sharing the road. Hence installation of retro-reflective

tapes has been made mandatory and detailed specifications have been laid in Clause (11) Lack of response by a doctor in an emergency situation pertaining to road 104 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989.

accidents, where he is expected to provide care, shall constitute "Professional

As per the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, it is mandatory for all vehicles to have at-

Misconduct”, under Chapter 7 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulation, 2002 and disciplinary action shall be taken against such doctor under Chapter 8 of the said Regulations.

(12) All hospitals shall publish a charter in Hindi, English and the vernacular language of the State or Union territory at their entrance to the effect that they shall not detain bystander or good Samaritan or ask depositing money from them for the treatment of a victim.

(13) In case a bystander or good Samaritan so desires, the hospital shall provide an acknowledgement to such good Samaritan, confirming that an injured person was brought to the hospital and the time and place of such occurrence and the acknowledgement may be prepared in a standard format by the State Government and disseminated to all hospitals in the State for incentivising the bystander or good Samaritan as deemed fit by the State Government.

(14) All public and private hospitals shall implement these guidelines immediately and in case of noncompliance or violation of these guidelines appropriate action shall be taken by the concerned authorities.

(15) A letter containing these guidelines shall be issued by the Central Government and the State Government to all Hospitals and Institutes under their respective jurisdiction, enclosing a Gazette copy of this notification and ensure compliance and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways shall publish advertisements in all national and one regional newspaper including electronic media informing the general public of these guidelines.

2. The above guidelines in relation to protection of bystander or good Samaritan are without prejudice to the liability of the driver of a motor vehicle in the road accident, as specified under section 134 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988).

Para 1(7) and 1(8) of the guidelines dated 12.5.2015 required standard operating procedure to be framed for the examination of the good Samaritans. The Central Government, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued notification on 21.1.2016 which is as under:

“No. RT-25035/101/2014-RS.—Whereas, the Hon’ble Supreme Court in the case of Save Life Foundation and another Vs Union of India and another in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 235/2012 vide its order dated 29th October 2014, inter-alia, directed to issue necessary directions with regard to the protection of Good Samaritans until appropriate

legislation is made by the Union Legislature;

And whereas, the Central Government published the guidelines in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section I dated 12th May 2015 for protection of the Good Samaritans, i.e. a person who is a bystander or a passer-by, who chooses to assist an injured person or a person in distress on the road;

And whereas, as per para 1 (7) and (8) of the said guidelines dated 12th May, 2015, Standard Operating Procedures are to be framed for the examination of Good Samaritans by the Police or during trial;

And whereas, the Central Government considers it necessary to issue Standard Operating Procedure for the examination of Good Samaritans by the Police or during trial and here by issue the following standard operating procedure, namely:—

1. The Good Samaritan shall be treated respectfully and without any discrimination on the grounds of gender, religion, nationality, caste or any other grounds.

2. Any person who makes a phone call to the Police control room or Police station to give information about any accidental injury or death, except an eyewitness may not reveal personal details such as full name, address, phone number etc.

3. Any Police official, on arrival at the scene, shall not compel the Good Samaritan to disclose his / her name, identity, address and other such details in the Record Form or Log Register.

4. Any Police official or any other person shall not force any Good Samaritan who helps an injured person to become a witness in the matter. The option of becoming a witness in the matter shall solely rest with the Good Samaritan.

5. The concerned Police official(s) shall allow the Good Samaritan to leave after having informed the Police about an injured person on the road, and no further questions shall be asked if the Good Samaritan does not desire to be a witness in the matter.

Examination of Good Samaritan by the Police

i. In case a Good Samaritan so chooses to be a witness, he shall be examined with utmost care and respect and without any discrimination on the grounds of gender, religion, nationality, caste or any other grounds.

ii. In case a Good Samaritan chooses to be a witness, his examination by the

investigating officer shall, as far as possible, be conducted at a time and place of his convenience such as his place of residence or business, and the investigation officer shall be dressed in plain clothes, unless the Good Samaritan chooses to visit the police station.

- iii. Where the examination of the Good Samaritan is not possible to be conducted at a time and place of his convenience and the Good Samaritan is required by the Investigation Officer to visit the police station, the reasons for the same shall be recorded by such officer in writing.
- iv. In case a Good Samaritan so chooses to visit the Police Station, he shall be examined in a single examination in a reasonable and time-bound manner, without causing any undue delay.
- v. In case the Good Samaritan speaks a language other than the language of the Investigating Officer or the local language of the respective jurisdiction, the Investigating Officer shall arrange for an interpreter.
- vi. Where a Good Samaritan declares himself to be an eye-witness, he shall be allowed to give his evidence on affidavit, in accordance with section 296 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) which refers to Evidence in Formal Character on Affidavit.
- vii. The complete statement or affidavit of such Good Samaritan shall be recorded by the Police official while conducting the investigation in a single examination.
- viii. In case the attendance of the Good Samaritan cannot be procured without delay, expense or inconvenience which, under the circumstances of the case, would be unreasonable, or his examination is unable to take place at a time and place of his convenience, the Court of Magistrate may appoint a commission for the examination of the Good Samaritan in accordance with section 284 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) on an application by the concerned.

3. The Superintendent of Police or Deputy Commissioner of Police or any other Police official of corresponding seniority heading the Police force of a District, as the case may be, shall be responsible to ensure that all the above mentioned procedures are implemented throughout their respective jurisdictions with immediate effect.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Savelife Foundation and another V/s. Union Of India and another in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 235 of 2012** vide its judgement

dated 30th March, 2016 with regard to the aforesaid guidelines has held as follows:

"19. We have carefully gone through the notification dated 12.5.2015. However, as per the guidelines contained in para 13, the 'acknowledgement' if so desired by Good Samaritans, has to be issued as may be prescribed in a standard format by the State Government. In our opinion, till such time the format is prescribed, there should be no vacuum hence we direct that acknowledgement be issued on official letter-pad etc. and in the interregnum period, if so desired by Good Samaritan, mentioning the name of Samaritan, address, time, date, place of occurrence and confirming that the injured person was brought by the said Samaritan. We have also gone through the notification dated 21.1.2016 with respect to the examination of Good Samaritan by the Police as contained in para 2(vii) which we modify and be read in the following manner :

"The affidavit of Good Samaritan if filed, shall be treated as complete statement by the Police official while conducting the investigation. In case statement is to be recorded, complete statement shall be recorded in a single examination."

Remaining guidelines in the notifications dated 12.5.2015 and 21.1.2016 are approved and it is ordered that guidelines with aforesaid modifications made by us be complied with by the Union Territories and all the functionaries of the State Governments as law laid down by this Court under Article 32 read with Article 142 of the Constitution of India and the same be treated as binding as per the mandate of Article 141.

20. We also direct that the court should not normally insist on appearance of Good Samaritans as that causes delay, expenses and inconvenience. The concerned court should exercise the power to appoint the Commission for examination of Good Samaritans in accordance with the provisions contained in section 284 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 suo motu or on an application moved for that purpose, unless for the reasons to be recorded personal presence of good Samaritan in court is considered necessary."

Medical treatment to injured:

In the case of **Pt. Parmanand Katara Vs. Union of India in Criminal Writ Petition No. 270 of 1988, D/-28.8.1989 (AIR 1989 Supreme Court 2039)** the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has observed:

"Every injured citizen brought for medical treatment should instantaneously be

given medical aid to preserve life and thereafter the procedural criminal law should be allowed to operate in order to avoid negligent death. There is no legal impediment for a medical professional when he is called upon or requested to attend to an injured person needing his medical assistance immediately. The effort to save the person should be the top priority not only of the medical professional but even of the police or any other citizen who happens to be connected with that matter or who happens to notice such an incident or a situation".

"There are no provisions in the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Motor Vehicles Act, which prevents doctors from promptly attending to serious injured persons and accident cases before arrival of the police and their taking into cognizance of such cases, preparation of FIR and other formalities by Police."

"There can be no second opinion that preservation of human life is of paramount importance. There is so on account of the fact that once life is lost, the status quo ante cannot be restored, as resurrection is beyond the capacity of man."

"Every doctor whether at a Government hospital or otherwise has the professional obligation to extend his services with due expertise for protecting life. No law or State action can intervene to avoid/delay the discharge of the paramount obligation cast upon members of the medical profession. The obligation being total, absolute and paramount, laws of procedure whether in status or otherwise which would interfere with the discharge of this obligation cannot be sustained and must, therefore, give way."

(b) ESSENTIALS FOR A SCHOOL BUS AS ORDERED BY THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

- "School Bus" must be written on the back and front of the Bus.
- If it is a hired bus, "On School Duty" should be clearly indicated
- Bus must have a First-Aid-Box.
- The windows of Bus must be fitted with horizontal grills.
- There must be a Fire Extinguisher in the Bus.
- School Name and Telephone No. must be written on the Bus.
- The doors of the Bus should be fitted with reliable locks.
- To keep School Bags safely, there should be a space-fitted under the seats.
- There must be an Attendant from the School in the Bus.

HALSA TOLL FREE HELPLINE NUMBER

1800-180-2057

(Timing 9.00 AM to 05.00 PM on any working day)

Helpline Numbers of District Legal Services Authorities Timings

**10.00 AM to 1.00 PM
2:00 PM and 5:00 PM
On any working day**

Sr. No.	District	Telephone Number	Sr. No.	District	Telephone Number
1.	Ambala	0171-2532142	11.	Kaithal	01746-235759
2.	Bhiwani	01664-245933	12.	Mewat at Nuh	01267-271072
3.	Faridabad	0129-2261898	13.	Narnaul	01282-250322
4.	Fatehabad	01667-231174	14.	Panchkula	0172-2585566
5.	Gurgaon	0124-2221501	15.	Panipat	0180-2640125
6.	Hissar	01662-270078	16.	Palwal	01275-259304
7.	Jind	01681-245048	17.	Rohtak	01262-257304
8.	Jhajjar	01251-252013	18.	Rewari	01274-220062
9.	Kurukshetra	01744-220216	19.	Sirsa	01666-247002
10.	Karnal	0184-2266138	20.	Sonepat	0130-2220057
			21.	Yamuna Nagar	01732-220840



HARYANA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

Institutional Plot No.9, Sector-14, Panchkula

Website : www.hslsa.nic.in,

E-mail : hslsa@hry.nic.in, hslsa.haryana@gmail.com