

UNIT 1 : Nature Of Road Safety

Road safety :

Road safety is the prevention and protection of road accidents by using all the road safety measures. It is to secure people while traveling on the roads. It is to make safe all the road users such as pedestrians, two-wheelers, four-wheelers, multi-wheelers, and other transport vehicle users.

Road Safety Tips

- Below are some road safety tips that everyone should follow:
 - Road safety rules and regulations state that you should never use a mobile phone while driving.
 - Wear seatbelts and helmets.
 - Walk carefully on the sidewalks and only cross on the zebra crossing.
 - Be careful of speed limits.
 - Never drink and drive.
 - Take care of citizens, children and pedestrians.
- In conclusion, road safety rules are a highly vital part of civilised living. It is important that every citizen knows and abides by the rules that the government sets. Even children and teenagers should be educated and made aware of the road regulations in a country.

What Are the Different Traffic and Road Safety Issues?

Road safety in India is very poor. Despite several government rules and regulations, there are mishaps and accidents. Here are some of the issues that continue to plague us.

Bad Implementation of the Road Safety Standards- Sometimes, the correct road signs are not marked or implemented. These should be corrected at the earliest by the responsible authority.

Bad Vehicle Design- Indian car manufacturers do not design their vehicles with many safety features involved. Unlike the west, where cars are manufactured with many automatic safety features, Indian vehicles still lag.

Indifferent Governments- Governments do not plan their roads properly. Moreover, governments are also indifferent about the state of the roads.

Lack of Emergency Services- Even though there are road safety rules, there is a complete lack of emergency services. When a quick response team is not available, victims succumb to their injuries on the spot. Hence, it is highly important that there be emergency services.

Lack of Responsibility Among Citizens- Moreover, there is a complete lack of responsibility among

citizens. Most of the time it is they who commit the wrong.

Poor Roads- Poor roads are always a cause of road accidents in India

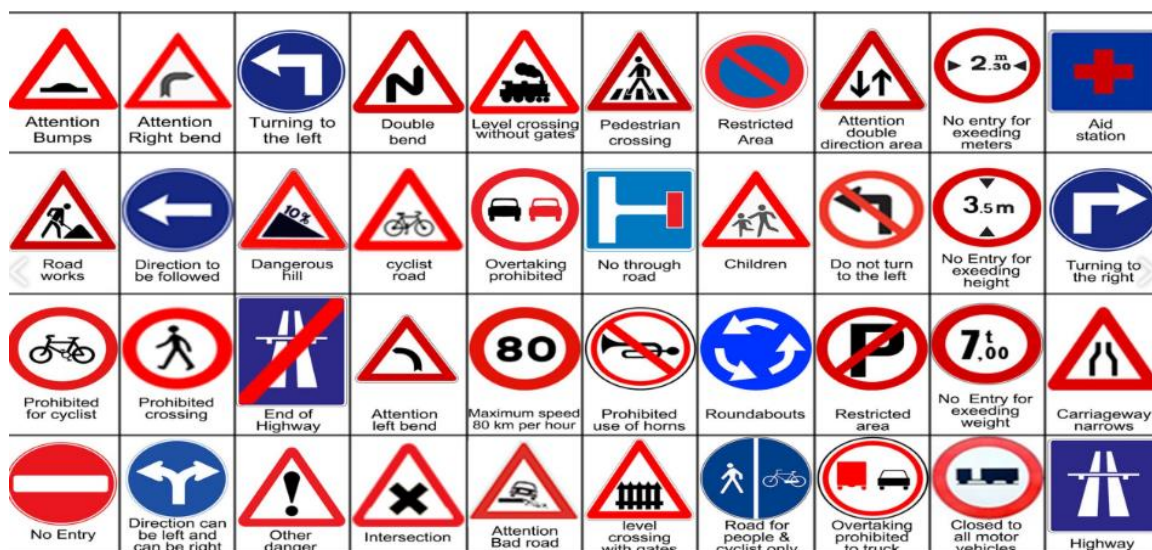
Blind Spot and Causes:

There have been many accidents that are caused because of blind spots, as a result of the driver not being able to see the other vehicle or pedestrian. There is a chance of being able to reduce the chances of this accidents by knowing what blindspots are and how can you avoid being completely blind to these spots.

A blindspot is an area that is immediately surrounding your vehicle that cannot be observed by the driver. These spots can't be seen in the rear view mirror or side mirror and thus it is hard to spot if there is a vehicle in these areas. These areas, as they are out of the driver's field of vision, makes driving hard especially when changing lanes or taking turns. These blindspots hide anything like other cars, bikes, pedestrians or other barriers. These areas are usually located on both side of your vehicle, at the back.

Blindspots could be really dangerous when the driver is required to manually check these spots by turning their head in the needed direction or by looking over their shoulder which would result in them having to divert their focus from the road in front.

Road Safety signs:



Arm Signals:

An action performed with a person's hand, or hands, which is intended to give a particular message to the person who sees it.

These are the arm signals that a driver can give to traffic controllers:

Left turn = put your left arm out to the side

Right turn = put your right arm out to the side

Straight ahead = lift up your left arm in the air, as shown in the picture below

Road Safety Rules and measures:

Every State government has enacted certain road laws to protect its citizens. They have also enacted laws to protect animals and pedestrians. Below are some of the key road safety measures.

1. Animal Safety

Cattle, cats and dogs are allowed to roam freely. Hence, avoid hurting them or running them over while driving.

2. Cross on Zebra Crossing

The importance of road safety is lost on those who do not use the zebra crossing to cross a road! The black and white stripes are there for a reason, and for your safety, make use of it to cross the road.

3. Drinking and Driving

Among the important road safety rules is to avoid consuming alcohol and then driving. Alcohol consumption impairs cognitive functioning and hence prevents a person from being fully in control of the vehicle.

4. Exhaustion or Health Issues

Road safety rules demand that you not drive if you have some health issues. Moreover, if you are exhausted, then also it is advised not to drive.

5. Follow Traffic Lights

Be obedient to all the traffic signals. Walk when the signal shows green to walk. Also, follow traffic lights when driving.

6. Keeping to the Left

Among the safety rules on the road, a vital one is keeping to the left while walking or driving so that you do not collide with vehicles coming from the right.

7. Slow Down at Intersections

Slow down while entering the main road, crossings, intersections, and corners,

8. Turn Signals and Hand Gestures

Use the necessary signals when you are turning, slowing down or allowing some other vehicle to pass. Do not use horns in the silent zone.

9. Use of Mobile Phones

Using mobile phones while on the road can cost lives. Hence, as a road safety point, avoid using your mobile phone while on the road.

Important Traffic Rules While Driving

Road safety rules in India are designed in the best interest of vehicle owners. You may follow the below-mentioned ten rules and regulations while driving to reduce the risk of accidents and ensure safe driving.

Always wear a seatbelt

The most important rule is to always strap on a seatbelt when you hit the wheel. Section 138 (3) CMVR 177 MVA of the Motor Vehicles Act lays down the specific fine for not fastening a seatbelt.

Avoid distractions

While you are behind the wheel, ensure that your main focus is on driving. Do not get distracted by loud music or by talking on the phone while driving.

Do not cross the speed limits

The goal of setting a speed limit is to ensure the safety of passengers in the vehicle as well as pedestrians. Besides, driving at high speed, even on roads with less traffic, may result in the driver losing control or a sudden brake fail, thereby causing an accident.

Service your car regularly

Maintaining your car on a regular basis is vital. Repair worn tires, fix your broken headlights, fix your side mirrors, and replace your engine oil as failing to do so may result in accidents.

Follow traffic signals

Failing to follow traffic signals may result in accidents. This, in turn, may lead to a damage to the vehicle, bodily injuries, and even death. To financially protect yourself against such an incident, you may purchase a vehicle insurance policy.

Maintain lane discipline

Considering the soaring traffic on Indian roads, following lane discipline is extremely crucial. Never overtake a car by changing lanes on a busy road. Even if you do change lanes, remember to give a signal.

Be careful during bad weather

It is necessary to take utmost care while driving during bad weather. For example, the roads may become foggy during winters. So ensure you have your fog lights on while driving.

Maintain a safe distance

Maintaining a safe distance will give you enough time to react in case the vehicle ahead makes a sudden stop. This reduces the chance of a collision and ensures the safety of passengers.

Overtake from the right

India follows right-hand drive. Hence, always remember to overtake from the right side.

Give way for emergency vehicles

As a driver, it becomes your responsibility to make way for emergency vehicles. You may, therefore, move your vehicle to the side in case an ambulance or a fire brigade was to cross.

Hurdles of road safety : 1. Negligence of civilians 2. Pathetic conditions of roads 3. Unsafe vehicle design 4. Under implementation of road safety standards 5. Lack of proper enforcement of laws 6. Lack of emergency services.

representation of the following signs :



give way. This is one of the most important and prominent Road Sign. This sign indicates that Driver should immediately stop. Usually Police, traffic and toll authorities use this signs at check posts.



So if you see a sign that says a **speed limit ends** with whatever numeric value was posted for that speed limit, that means that it goes back to the primary speed limit on a two-lane roadway.



he No Entry signs restrict access around your premises. No Entry signs can also be used to inform either drivers or pedestrians of which routes they can and cannot take.

Documents required for vehicle registration

Some of the documents that you have to produce to get your vehicle registered are:

- Duly filled application form
- Original sale certificate
- Copy of valid vehicle insurance
- Identity proof
- Proof of residence
- Customs Clearance Certificate if the vehicle has been imported
- Challan receipt

Safe and Responsible driving :

Being a safe and responsible driver takes a combination of knowledge, skill and attitude.

To begin, you must know the traffic laws and driving practices that help traffic move safely. Breaking these “rules of the road” is the major cause of collisions.

Traffic laws are made by federal, provincial and municipal governments, and police from each level can enforce them. If you break a traffic law, you may be fined, sent to jail or lose your driver’s licence. If you get caught driving while your licence is suspended, your vehicle may be impounded.

But you need to do more than just obey the rules. You must care about the safety of others on the road. Everyone is responsible for avoiding collisions. Even if someone else does something wrong, you may be found responsible for a collision if you could have done something to avoid it.

Because drivers have to co-operate to keep traffic moving safely, you must also be predictable, doing what other people using the road expect you to do. And you must be courteous. Courteous driving means giving other drivers space to change lanes, not cutting them off and signalling your turns and lane changes properly.

You must be able to see dangerous situations before they happen and to respond quickly and effectively to prevent them. This is called defensive or strategic driving. There are collision avoidance courses available where you can practice these techniques.

Defensive driving is based on three ideas: visibility, space and communication.

Visibility is about seeing and being seen. You should always be aware of traffic in front, behind and beside you. Keep your eyes constantly moving, scanning the road ahead and to the side and checking your mirrors every five seconds or so. The farther ahead you look, the less likely you will be surprised,

and you will have time to avoid any hazards. Make sure other drivers can see you by using your signal lights as required.

Managing the space around your vehicle lets you see and be seen and gives you time and space to avoid a collision. Leave a cushion of space ahead, behind and to both sides. Because the greatest risk of a collision is in front of you, stay well back.

Communicate with other road users to make sure they see you and know what you are doing. Make eye contact with pedestrians, cyclists and drivers at intersections and signal whenever you want to slow down, stop, turn or change lanes. If you need to get another person's attention, use your horn.

Common Causes of Road Accidents in India

Road accidents are unfortunately prevalent in India, and the majority of these accidents are caused by human fault. It is imperative to be cautious, drive carefully and follow traffic rules. However, even if you are careful on the streets does not mean that the other drivers are too. There are several incidences when the drivers are not wrong, and it's the pedestrian or the other vehicle that creates the havoc.

The most common causes of road accidents in India -

Distracted Driving

One of the most common causes of road accident is distracted driving. The number of accidents occurring due to distracted driving has increased in the past decades. Undivided attention while driving is a must and drivers should inculcate the same within them. Reading messages, replying to texts, taking calls, reading, grooming, etc. behind the wheel can be fatal.

Drunk Driving

Driving under the influence of any drug is one of the most dangerous causes of road crashes. If you have had a drink or anything, take a cab or give your keys to a sober friend who can drop you home. Driving in a drunken condition is not worth the risk.

Speeding/ Reckless Driving

It is quite tempting to push the accelerator and increase the speed when you are running late or are driving on an empty road. Speeding increases the intensity of accidents and is proved to be fatal most of the time. Hence, it is advisable to drive within the legal limits even when you are running late.

Reckless driving mostly leads to horrible accidents. Take your time and remain calm behind the wheels to avoid unwanted accidents caused by mere neglect.

Not Wearing Seat Belt

It is essential to wear a seat belt while driving. Not only it keeps your posture right, but also reduces the chances of injuries during a head-to-head collision. It also increases the likelihood of survival of the drivers without having to suffer any significant damage.

Rain or Wet Roads

Wet roads are slippery, and hence they can be fatal for the vehicles as the wheels lose their traction on wet roads. While you can't always avoid driving in the rain, the slippery streets should be best avoided whenever possible. Also, when the visibility is too low, you should pull over and wait until the rain subsides.

Potholes and Bad Road Condition

Poor road conditions are unavoidable and very frustrating for drivers. Be very cautious around potholes to avoid damaging your car. Smearing your vehicle to avoid the potholes can be dangerous.

Breaking Traffic Rules

If everyone follows the traffic rule, the roads will be a safer place to be. The rules are simple, yet few people tend to break them often. Red signal always means stop. Even if you see no other vehicles coming, running a red light and breaking the law might cause a severe accident. Understand that life is more important than all excuses combined, and it's best to be safe than sorry.

Tailgating

No matter how frustratingly slow the cars in front of you must be going, there's no excuse to get too close to them. Keep a safe distance from other vehicles so that you have enough time to react to sudden turns. All these reasons sound very basic, but they are the significant reasons behind accidents on Indian roads. Accidents come with a whole set of drawbacks. Having your vehicle insured can be a breeze of relief for you. Therefore, we recommend you to have a valid car insurance or two-wheeler insurance policy for your four-wheelers and bikes respectively. In case your car insurance or two-wheeler insurance policy has expired, renew it within minutes online.

Benefits Of Having A Driving licence In India

Following are the benefits of having a Driving Licence In India :-

A driving licence issued in India is valid throughout the country :-The Regional Transport Office of the Indian state in which the applicant resides issues a driving licence. A person living in Mumbai, for example, should go to the nearest RTO, which is located inside the Mumbai area. Despite this, the licence is valid throughout the United States.

It is a Prominent Proof of Identity, Nationality and Age :-This document is held in great regard because obtaining a driver's licence is a difficult process. Only qualifying candidates receive a driver's licence following a complete background check. As a result, it can be used to establish identification, nationality, and age.

Indian Driving Licence Stores all personal Information :- Driver's licences are now issued in the form of a smart card with a small, golden chip. The existence of this chip is not only a visual enhancement over the standard document; it also contains the licence holder's biometric information. Authorities can scan this

chip to obtain prominent driver information.

Indian Driving Licence is Valid for 20 Years :- A driver's licence is valid for 20 years after it is issued. The only other time the validity of a driver's licence will expire is when the bearer reaches the age of 50. When a driving licence expires, the candidate should renew it as soon as possible with the RTO. Driving without a valid driver's licence is a criminal violation.

why registration is required ?

From taxation to road rage, only through these records can road safety and control be ensured. Due to this necessity, a vehicle must be registered with a government authority in order to be allowed legally on the roads of India.

Documents required for Driving Licence

Driving Licence are required to submit the following documents when applying for a licence. **The documents to be submitted are given below:**

Application form (Form 4), duly filled in and signed

Proof of address (refer below for documents)

Proof of age (refer below for documents)

Citizenship declaration (refer below for documents)

Learner's licence (original)

Passport sized photographs

Valid vehicle documents

Proof of address documentation

Any one of the following is to be submitted as address proof

Passport

Life insurance policy

Voter's ID card

Government issued payslip

Affidavit sworn before a Judicial or Executive Magistrate or Public Notary

Proof of age documentation

Any one of the following is to be submitted as proof of age:

School certificate

Birth certificate

Affidavit sworn before a Public Notary or Executive Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate