

ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC SIGNS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A person ready to drive for the first time on road, he need to learn the rules and regulations of the road. The road signs or symbols and marking help the road users to follow the rules and should be mastered before venturing on the road. They also serve to guide, inform and caution, so need to full attention, respect and the drivers appropriate response. *“Safety is not just a Slogan; It is a way of life”* The present article will be useful for potential drivers and young people who are beginning to use road their own and also to existing road users. It is hope the present article will help our road users improve their awareness and to be more responsible while on the road accidents.

INTRODUCTION

Driving a motor vehicle is not a right. Rather, it is a privilege and this privilege comes with many responsibilities. In order to enjoy the privilege of driving, it is important that you should know what laws, rules and regulations exist for safe driving and must follow them at all times. As the driver of a vehicle, your aim should be to make driving a safe and enjoyable experience for yourself, for the passengers in your vehicle, as well as for other drivers sharing the road. Driving is a complex task and complicated situations can arise at any point of time. How you react to such situations depends upon your training, alertness and your attitude while driving.

Lack of knowledge and perpetual disobedience of traffic rules have

made our roads extremely unsafe. It does not come as a surprise that most of the drivers of motor vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and even the traffic police personnel managing and controlling traffic on the roads are not fully aware of the traffic rules and driving regulations. Lack of awareness of the basic concepts of safe or defensive driving coupled with poor enforcement of rules of the road have resulted in chaotic driving conditions on Indian roads. More than 1,50,000 persons die in accidents on Indian roads every year.

The situation on the road safety front will not improve unless the prospective drivers are imparted proper training. One of the most important steps to bring some discipline on the roads and prevent accidents is to offer quality driver training and implement an effective licensing system.

ROAD SAFETY

Road safety refers to the measures which must be adopted by everyone while using roads. These safety methods are meant for reducing the risk of accidents and injuries or casualties on the road. These rules must be followed by all users of roads including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and bus and truck drivers. Safety methods also relate to the construction, layout of roads as well as traffic regulation systems. So, we can summarize that road safety involves:-

- The design of roads and highways.
- Laws pertaining to traffic and vehicles.
- Systems of traffic safety and control.
- Driver education.
- School students' education.
- Mass education.
- Traffic regulation and road safety signs.
- Vehicle design and motor vehicle safety inspection and maintenance.

ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS

Traffic signs, signals and markings on the roads and pavements are meant to provide clear guidance to help the drivers drive safely, regulate traffic, cautioning the drivers of dangers ahead, and informing the drivers of

facilities available en-route. They convey a clear, visual and precise meaning in a simple form. Every prospective driver, therefore, must know all road signs, signals and markings found on the public roads and highways and follow them at all times.

Signs

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

- **Mandatory Signs**
- **Cautionary Signs**
- **Informatory Signs**

Mandatory Signs

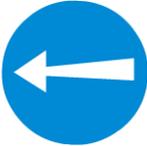
These signs are mandatory and must be followed at all times. Mandatory signs are circular, except the 'Stop' sign and the 'Give Way' sign. Mandatory signs are reproduced below for your quick reference.

MANDATORY OR REGULATORY SIGNS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Stop | Give way | No entry | Straight prohibited |
|  |  |  |  |
| One way | One way | Vehicles prohibited in both directions | Horn prohibited |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Pedestrians prohibited | Cycles prohibited | Right turn prohibited | Left turn prohibited |
|  |  |  |  |
| U-turn prohibited | Overtaking prohibited | Trucks prohibited | Tonga prohibited |
|  |  |  |  |
| All motor vehicles prohibited | Hand cart prohibited | Bullock cart prohibited | Bullock and hand carts prohibited |
|  |  |  |  |
| No parking | No parking or stopping | Speed limit | Axle load limit |
|  |  |  |  |
| Width limit | Weight limit | Length limit | Load limit |
|  | | | |
| Restriction and | | | |

COMPULSORY DIRECTION CONTRAL

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Turn left | Turn right | Ahead or turn left | Ahead or turn right |
|  |  |  |  |
| Ahead | Keep left | Sound horn | Cycle rickshaw track |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sleep road ahead | Main road ahead | Pedestrians only | Buses only |

CAUTIONARY SIGN

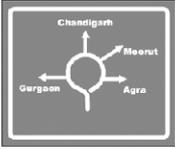
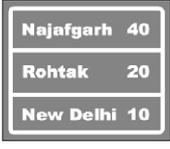
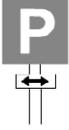
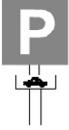
Cautionary signs are meant to warn the drivers about the hazardous or abnormal conditions lying ahead. These signs are triangular in shape. The following cautionary signs are included in the motor vehicle act, 1988

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Right hand curve | Left hand curve | Right hand pin bend | Left hand pin bend |
|  |  |  |  |
| Right reverse bend | Narrow bridge | Gap in median | Cycle crossing |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Pedestrian crossing | School | Men at work | Roundabout |
|  |  |  |  |
| Narrow road | Road widens | Side road left | Side road right |
|  |  |  |  |
| Major road | Major road | Staggered intersection | Staggered intersection |
|  |  |  |  |
| Y-intersection | Y-intersection | Y-intersection | T-intersection |
|  |  |  |  |
| Start of dual carriageway | End of dual carriageway | Reduced carriageway | Reduced carriageway |
|  |  | | |
| Two way | Cross road | | |

INFORMATORY SIGNS

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

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
|  <p>Advance direction</p> |  <p>Map type advance direction</p> |  <p>Rotary intersection</p> |  <p>Reassurance</p> |
|  <p>Direction</p> |  <p>Direction</p> |  <p>Place identification</p> |  <p>Truck lay bay</p> |
|  <p>Toll booth ahead</p> |  <p>Parking this side</p> |  <p>Parking both sides</p> |  <p>Cycle stand</p> |
|  <p>Scooter and motor cycle stand</p> |  <p>Taxi stand</p> |  <p>Auto-rickshaw stand</p> |  <p>Cycle-rickshaw stand</p> |
|  <p>Public telephone</p> |  <p>Filling station</p> |  <p>Hospital</p> |  <p>First aid post</p> |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Eating place | Light refreshment | No through road | No through side road |
|  |  |  |  |
| Resting place | Pedestrian subway | Airport | Repair facility |
|  |  |  |  |
| Police station | Railway station | Bus stop | Taxi stand |
|  |  | | |
| Auto-rickshaw stand | Cycle-rickshaw stand | | |

CONCLUSION

In Conclusion, road safety is very important for people of all age to be safe and secure. Everyone should follow all the rules and regulations and signs of all road traffic. Road accidents easily prevented if people are just little bit more attentive and careful towards their surroundings. Many projects are supported by different organizations including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Indian Government. These projects are aimed at increasing public awareness about road safety, facilitating law

Proceedings of D.H.E. Haryana approved National Seminar on Road Safety Awareness in India
enforcement and implementations regarding road safety, advocating for safety behavior and addressing road safety issues.

REFERENCES

- Motor Vehicles Act, 1988
- Central Motor vehicles Rules, 1989
- Motor Vehicles (Driving) Regulations, 2017
- Chandigarh Traffic Police website (www.chandigarhtrafficpolice.org)
- Delhi Traffic Police website (www.delhitrafficpolice.nic.in)
- Indian Roads Congress, New Delhi
- Institute of Road Traffic Education (www.irte.com)
- Institute of Driving Training and Research, New Delhi (<http://www.idtrmaruti.com>)
- 'Get There - Your Guide to Travel Safety', The Auto Club and Minnesota Safety Council
- Minnesota, USA, Drivers Manual
- Kentucky, USA, Drivers Manual
- New Hampshire, USA, Drivers Manual
- Dr Adhiraj Joglekar's blog and videos (<http://driving-india.blogspot.in>)