

Regional Advocacy Meeting
On
Road Safety: Motor Vehicle
(Amendment)
Bill 2017 & Way Forward

Ahmedabad, May 26, 2017



Organised by

CUTS[®]
International

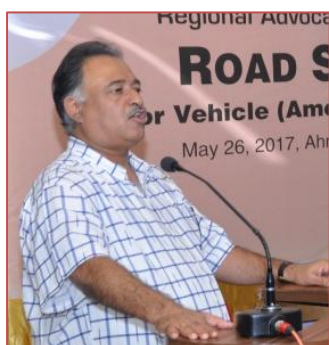
Background

The Regional Advocacy meeting on Road Safety Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2017 was organised by CUTS in partnership with Consumer Education and Research Centre (CERC), Ahmedabad on May 26, 2017 under the project entitled 'Campaign for Enhanced Road Safety in India through Advocacy for Enactment of Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2016' at Hotel Inder Residency, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The one point agenda of the meeting was to discuss the changes made in the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill or MVA Bill, 2017 and to advocate for the early passage of MVA Bill, 2017, the Bill has been passed in Lok Sabha and expected to be passed in Rajya Sabha in the upcoming monsoons season. Representations from 75 Non-government Organisations (NGOs) of Gujarat and other states, media representatives, officials of stakeholder departments and road safety experts actively participated in the event.

Proceedings

Session 1: Inaugural Session

Uday Mawani, CEO Consumer Education and Research Centre (CERC), Ahmedabad, in his welcome note welcomed all the participants. He the speakers of the inaugural session by presenting them a holy thread of Gujarat, *Sutra-ki-aanti*. In his welcome note, he mentioned that the MVA Bill, 2017 has been passed in Lok Sabha on April 10, 2017 and is awaited to be passed in the Rajya Sabha in the upcoming monsoon session of the Parliament. He urged the audience to raise a collective voice for the early passage of the MVA Bill, 2017 in Rajya Sabha in the upcoming monsoon session.



George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International in his opening remarks spoke about the urgency of passing the MVA Bill, 2017 in Rajya Sabha. While speaking about the urgency of passing the Bill, he reported that though India has only 2 percent of motor vehicles population but it accounts for more than 10 percent of road accidents of the world. As a result, road accidents claim more than 400 lives daily on Indian roads. there is 4.6 percent of increase in road accident fatalities in 2015 from 2014, which is an alarming situation. Every hour, 57 accidents occur on Indian roads and 17 people lose their lives, Cheriyan added. While discussing about the data of Ahmedabad he said that over 65 percent of two-wheeler riders and 55 percent of car drivers have been found to be using mobile phones, texting and listening to music while driving on Ahmedabad roads. Among average fatalities reported in

Ahmedabad every year, 41 percent are pedestrians, 28 percent cyclists, 21 percent two-wheeler riders, 6 percent four-wheeler riders and 4 percent heavy vehicle riders, he added.

Gujarat is reported to have one of the highest death rates of 35.7 due to overspeeding as compared to 29.96 for Maharashtra and 24.43 for Tamil Nadu. The fatality rate of Gujarat is even higher than the National rate which is 29.27, he added. While emphasising on the urgency of passing the Bill in Rajya Sabha he said that with the passage of time, every month nearly 1200 people are becoming a victim of road mishaps. If this trend continues then in a year road accidents will take away the life of 1.5 lakh people.

Madhu Sudan Sharma, CUTS envisioned about the proposed amendments in the MVA Bill, 2016 and highlighted the aims of the same which are improving the road safety and citizens' ease and facilitation while dealing with the Transport Department; reducing the number of road accident fatalities; enhancing the last mile connectivity; strengthening public transport and rural transport; enabling online services like automation, computerisation, etc.. In his presentation, he mentioned that 89 amendments have been proposed in the MVA Bill, 2016.



While discussing the Bill Sharma also mentioned that the guidelines for Good Samaritan will also be made, and under which no questions will be asked from the person who acts as Good Samaritan and gives a helping hand to the victim.

Drawing the attention of audience towards major risk factors, he said the major risk factors are overspeeding, drink and driving, not wearing helmet, car safety belts and child restraint system. He also threw light on increasing penalties in all the five risk factors and in general, penalties in the proposed MVA Bill, 2016.



Nalin Sinha, Consultant, GRSP presented an overview of road safety scenario in India. He said that there are three important factors influencing the road accidents: the driver, road and the vehicle. The driver should know and follow the driving rules, the road should be in a proper condition and the vehicles should be properly maintained in order to avoid the number of accidents. Every day, 407 people die in road accidents. Around 43.7 percent deaths are caused due to overspeeding followed by overloading at 31.4 percent. While sharing road accident fatalities data he said that there were 8136 deaths in 2016, and mentioned that there was a reduction of 322 deaths in the first quarter of 2017.

Dr P K Sarkar, Head of Department, School of Planning and Architecture and Ministry of Human Resource, Government of India, New Delhi, said that there is an urgent need of preparing a master plan of road safety and using effective road engineering and scientific measures on the roads. He shared the best practices related to road safety of Japan and the shared Experience of Successfully mitigating road safety issues and challenges.



He also discussed about vehicle information and communication system, vehicle road communication systems techniques, robotic traffic management, etc. He said that proper care should be taken that the roads are designed properly as this would help in mitigating the road accidents. He finally advocated for adopting the good practices like awarding good road engineers, good road designs and vehicles in order to promote them.



P K Bansal, Former Director General of Police, Gujarat Police emphasised on the three Es comprising Engineering, Enforcement and Education. In addition, he stated that the engineering of the road should be enhanced , there should be strict enforcement of the road safety laws and the road users should be well aware about the road manners and this will certainly reduce the number of accidents in the country.

He highlighted that apart from the engineering aspects, enforcement and educational aspects of road safety and driving manners are equally important –leading causes of road accidents need to be changed. He mentioned that enforcement of traffic rules has its own limitations due to some behavioural issues of traffic police. Besides, lack of capacity of the traffic police is another problem, and therefore, focus should be given to mitigate these issues.

Vibhor Gupta, Founder Mobiquel spoke about the HumSafar app for Road Safety. While explaining the features of the application he discussed that when the road accident occurs the app triggers the alarm which goes to police, medical staff and other related people. Besides, the app also has localised directory of services like petrol pumps, hospitals, service stations and food courts within an area of five km radius which enables the user in finding the nearest spot of accident. This app will help the victim to get the immediate medical aid which would definitely help in reducing post accidental deaths, Gupta added.



Session 2: Views of Road Accident Victims/Car Crash Survivors

Ashok Patel, a car crash survivor and son of a car crash victim shared his experience and stated that he lost his father because he was not wearing the seat belt at the time of the accident. Hence, he urged the audience to wear the seat belts for their own safety.



Dr Varsha Pradhan, Ph. D. (Pharma Sciences), New Delhi and a car crash survivor narrated her own story as a victim, and appealed the audience to wear seat belts. She said, “Seat belt is not just a seat belt, it is a safety belt”. While describing how she lost her very close friend in the same road accident, who was not wearing the seat belt, she emphasised upon the importance of wearing the seat belt.

While talking about the Child Restraint System (CRS) – Airbag system, she appealed the audience to buy a car with the facility of airbags, though being quite expensive but can be a life saviour. She also said that in order to make the youth and children alert about the road safety issues, awareness regarding road safety should be created in educational institutes. She also said that the road safety laws should be made part of the curriculum and there should also be some kind of assessment for the same because whatever teachings are imparted at young stage have a long-lasting effect.

Session 3: Expert Views on Road Safety

Technical Session/Panel Discussion

The session was chaired by Dr Samir N Pathak, Road Safety Management Expert; Parimal Vasavada, Member of Ahmedabad Traffic Consultative Committee (ATCC); Jhaveri, Rtd. RTO, Surat; Vedant S Goyal, Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIRGS) Mumbai. The session was moderated by Nalin Sinha, India Coordinator, Global Health Advocacy Incubator.

Dr Samir N Pathak Road Safety Management Expert, who has written several books earlier on road safety, said that his book is aimed at reducing accidents and increasing awareness among the drivers. “Accidents not always happen due to accidental and unavoidable reasons as 90 percent of them occur due to lack of knowledge and people die due to human errors. He recommended that to improve the situation, driver should be properly trained.





Parimal Vasavada, Member of Ahmedabad Traffic Consultative Committee (ATCC) drew the attention of the participants towards careless attitude of the people for following traffic rules and regulations. He said that following the regulations is not enough in reducing the number of accidents. Educating the road users is also important so there should be regular sessions on the road safety for making the people aware about road manners. Spreading awareness and educating the people in this direction will definitely help in decreasing the number of accident, he added.

As far as enforcement of the Act, is concerned, **Jhaveri**, Rtd. RTO, Surat said that making rules will not make a difference unless there is a strict enforcement of the same. He added that people are generally not aware or are not trained about the various driving rules like where to park and how to take turns. Therefore, strict enforcement of the road safety laws is the need of the hour.



Vedant S Goyal, Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS), Mumbai said that infrastructure development should be in order to reduce the number of road accidents. Throwing light on the initiatives taken by BIGRS, he said that in order to reduce the number of road accidents, they have taken several initiatives like sharing the data of the number of road accidents between the various departments. They approached the transport operators in Mumbai, seeking technical analysis and asked them to share the data with the health department and police officers, so that they can share their perspective and find the cause of the road accidents.

Open House Discussion

The participants actively took part in open house discussions. Some of the suggestions given by the participants are as following:

1. Focussing on education and awareness about road safety and implementation of the corresponding laws. .
2. Enhancing traffic monitoring system to reduce road accidents.
3. Training the law enforcement team.
4. Building urban designs of the internal roads and highways.

5. Constructing separate lanes for small vehicles.
6. Providing proper and adequate training to traffic police.



Summing Up, Vote of Thanks & Way Forward

Jeetali Agnani of CUTS summed up the proceedings of the daylong meeting. In her concluding remarks, she mentioned that the meeting was very helpful for the audience as it provided clarity to the participants about the amendments of the MVA Bill and an overview of the state of road accidents in India.

In addition, Anindita Mehta, Deputy General Manager, CERC thanked the speakers and participants for being a part of the event.



Programme Schedule

Time	Activity	Resource Person
09.30am-10:00am	Arrival, Registration of Delegates & Tea	
10:00am-12:00am	Inaugural Session	
	Welcome	Uday Mawani , CEO, Consumer Education & Research Centre (CERC), Ahmadabad
	Opening Address	George Cheriyan Director, CUTS International
	Highlights of MVA Bill, 2016 or 2017	Madhu Sudan Sharma Sr. Project Coordinator, CUTS International
	Overview of Road Safety in India	Shri Nalin Sinha Consultant, GHAI/GRSP
	Sharing the Best Practices on Road Safety	Dr P K Sarkar , Prof. & Head of Department, School of Planning & Architecture, Ministry of HRD, New Delhi
	Three E's of Road Safety	Shri P K Bansal Former DG, Gujarat Police
12:15pm-12:30pm	Tea Break	
12.30pm 12.45pm	HumSafar App	Shri Vibhor Gupta , Founder Mobiquel, Delhi
12.45pm-1.30pm	Presentations by Car Crash Survivors Moderator: George Cheriyan	1. Dr Varsha Pradhan Ph.D. (Pharm. Sciences), New Delhi 2. Shri Ashok Patel , Ahmedabad
1:30pm-2:30pm	Lunch	
2.30pm-4.00pm	Technical Session	
	Expert Views on Road Safety Moderator: Shri Nalin Sinha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Samir N Pathak, Road Safety Management Expert Shri Parimal Vasavada, Member of Ahmedabad Traffic Consultative Committee (ATCC) Shri Jhaveri, Rtd. RTO, Surat Shri Vedant S Goyal, BRIGS, Mumbai
3.45pm-4.00pm	Summing Up, Vote of Thanks and Way Forward High Tea, Departure	Jeetali Agnani , Project Officer, CUTS International Anindita Mehta , Deputy General Manager, CERC

List of Participants

S.No.	Name	Name & Address of the Organiation
1	Martin Rodrigues	Raia Civic and Consumer Forum (RCCF) Goa
2	Varsha Pradhan	Gurgaon
3	Pritee Shah	CERC Ahmedabad
4	Banna Dutta	14, Sivan Darshan
5	Hasmukh Dave	6, Samguddhi, Bungloks- II, Thaltej, Ahmedabad
6	Prof. P K Sarkar	School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi
7	Mahendra Voru	S-9, Bhutiya Vadi, Ahmedabad
8	George Cheriyan	CUTS International, Jaipur
9	Madhu Sudan Sharma	CUTS International, Jaipur
10	Gautam Patel	Dalia Building, Opp. Towh Hall, Ahmedabad
11	Dixon Panchal	D-101, Kirti Sagar
12	Bipin Shan	26, Yash Kamal Society
13	Krapesh K Patel	Ahmedabad Janmarg Ltd., Ahmeabad
14	Bharat K Shah	12(B), Hari Mukund
15	B J Dave	22, Prashwar Bunglow, Ahmedabad
16	AVAN	Ahmedabad
17	Rajpal	Ahmedabad
18	P K Bansal	Ahmedabad
19	Vikram Modi	Ahmedabad
20	Nalin Sinha	GRSP/GHAI Consultant, New Delhi
21	Sanskriti Menon	CEE, Pune
22	Parimal Vasarma	Ahmedabad
23	Shaheriar B Zaveri	13/A, Rutuseri Mennejer, Ahmedabad
24	Kumar	Ahmedabad
25	Vedant Goyal	BIRGS Mumbai
26	Arpit Darji	ABP Asmtta
27	Surendra Aneja	I/2, 704, Meadows Shanligram
28	Manish Singh Rathod	Nav Gujarat Samaj
29	Dr Pravin Bhankar	23, Sanidhya Society
30	Abhishek Thikor	Bopul
31	P A Patel	AMC, Ahmedabad

S.No.	Name	Name & Address of the Organisation
32	D G Sheth	20, Akshad Bnglow, Thaltej, Ahmedabad
33	H P Sorathia	Ahmedabad
34	Jagyasha Shah	Ahmedabad
35	Amit Compa	Gandhi Nagar
36	Chetaral	Ahmedabad
37	Satyapal Singh	CUTS International, Jaipur
38	Prity Rukash	AMTS Ahmedabad
39	Ranal Pupak	CERC, Ahmedabad
40	Girish Shah	CERC Ahmedabad
41	Ramesh	CERC Ahmedabad
42	Meghavi Joshi	CERC Ahmedabad
43	Mohit	CERC Ahmedabad
44	Anindita Mehta	CERC Ahmedabad
45	Uday Mawani	CERC Ahmedabad
46	Niyati Parikh	Times of India
47	Sandip Panchal	G-102, Sauth Nandanvan-5, Ahmedabad
48	Paresh Sakuriya	G-102, Sauth Nandanvan-5, Ahmedabad
49	Palmar Ashok	Glohakhit Suraksha Mandal, Kodimar, Distt.- Gir Somnath
50	Jeetali Agnani	CUTS International, Jaipur
51	Samir Bhattacharya	CUTS International, Jaipur
52	Jayant Kathiriya	25, Raj Rishwa
53	Himmat Singh Chouba	Ahmedabad
54	Natu Bhai Burot	Ahmedabad
55	Pratap V Chharia	Surat
56	Shobhanaben P Chharia	Surat
57	M P Thuroor	Ahmedabad
58	Arvind B Patel	Ahmedabad
59	B D Kred	Ahmedabad
60	Kirit Bhai	Ahmedabad
61	Bhargava Sen Pandya	Ahmedabad
62	Nayan Chandra Purohit	Ahmedabad
63	P Parmar	Gandhi Nagar

S.No.	Name	Name & Address of the Organisation
64	Ramesh Bhai	Ahmedabad
65	H Bhai	Ahmedabad
66	Hira Bhai Parmar	Ahmedabad
68	N R Khimsy	Ahmedabad
69	Jhaveri	Retd. RTO, Surat
70	Vibhor Gupta	Founder, Mobiquel, Delhi

75% of accidental deaths due to speeding, rash driving

Experts, NGOs Stress On Safety Measures

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Around 75% accidental deaths occur due to overspeeding and dangerous driving and overtaking, according to the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report of 2015. Highlighting the accident fatality figures at a regional advocacy meeting in Ahmedabad on Friday, road safety experts and NGOs pushed for passing the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill, 2016, on an urgent basis.

Organized by Consumer Education & Research Centre (CERC) and CUTS International, the regional advocacy meeting discussed the road safety scenario in India and emphasized on the need for the amended bill to be put into action. The bill has been passed in the Lok Sabha

► Around 43.7% road accident-related deaths are caused due to speeding while 31.4% of them are due to dangerous driving and overtaking

► In 2016, road accidents claimed 8,136 lives in Gujarat. From January-March, 322 road accident-related deaths were reported

SPEED KILLS



► There are around 1.48 lakh road fatalities every year in India

► Around 13.02 lakh people died of road accidents from 2006-2015 in India

► National highways witnessed 49,651 deaths, state highways 41,219 and expressways 1,849

► 65% road death victims are in the age-group of 18-45 years

and will be taken up by the Rajya Sabha in the upcoming monsoon session. CUTS International had made a representation to all the Rajya Sabha members in Delhi, ahead of the winter session pressing to pass the bill.

George Cherian, director, CUTS International, highlighted that while India has only 2% of the global motor vehicle population, it accounts for more than 10% of road accidents in the world. "Every hour 57 accidents occur on Indian roads

and 17 people lose their lives. As for Ahmedabad, over 65% of two-wheeler riders and 55% of car drivers have been found to be using mobile phones, texting and listening to music while driving," he said. Experts particularly emphasized on efficient road engineering.

"There is need to prepare a master plan and use effective road engineering and scientific measures to ensure road safety," said P K Sarkar, HoD, School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi, citing

Times View

Road accidents claim more than 22 lives daily in Gujarat. Enforcement of traffic rules by the police is one of the three Es of road safety, the other two being education and engineering. Road safety has to be inculcated in people who must lead by example. Educating youth and children in road safety is vital. Besides tougher penalties, the condition of infrastructure must be reviewed.

ting examples from other countries.

"Comprehensive road safety policies on key behavioural risk factors and their implementation can significantly improve road safety in India. Data and trends suggest that focusing on speeding, drunken driving, helmet, seat belt, and child safety systems can help reduce large number of road injuries and deaths," said Nalin Sinha, India coordinator, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, who was also present at the meeting.