

## Other Useful Tips

Besides, there are times when the driver is required to react promptly to the situations on the road. It is important to follow them also.

- Always allow fire brigade, ambulance and police vehicle to pass.
- Never light a cigarette while driving or going for refuelling at petrol pumps.
- Never alight from your car on the road side.
- Allow non-motorised vehicles to pass by as they cannot accelerate their speed or movement swift.
- Always help pedestrians, handicapped people and children to move on the road.
- Never blow your horn unnecessarily. Use it as an emergency device.
- Do not carry inflammable materials in your vehicles as they can cause loss of life and property in case of an accident.



# ROAD MANNERS

## EVERY ROAD USER MUST KNOW!



**A Little Care Makes Accidents Rare**

**or**

**Good Road Manners  
Mark a Good Citizen**

**CUTS**<sup>®</sup>  
International

**Consumer Unity & Trust Society**

D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park Jaipur 302 016, India

Ph: +91.141.228 2821, Fx: +91.141.228 2485

Email: cuts@cuts.org, cart@cuts.org

Website: cuts-international.org

Traffic Laws are designed to protect all people and drivers on the road. If we do not follow them we are not only putting ourselves at risk but also innocent bystanders and drivers. By knowing the rules of the road, practicing good driving skills and generally taking care as a road user, one can play a vital role in preventing a crash and also make road safety policies more effective. Many factors play a role in road safety including following the speed limits that are posted and making sure safety equipment is properly installed and used.



## Basic Rules of the Road

There are certain rules that have been formulated for the benefit of people and the idea of preparing these rules is not that they should not only be understood by the drivers, but also by the cyclists, pedestrians and other people. It is essential to follow all the rules and regulations, which are clearly listed here. People are recommended to carefully observe the specified rules and regulations on road and it is always good to be careful, considerate and patient.



## Rules to be Followed while Driving Vehicle

- Do not drive with high speed.
- Do not drink and drive.
- Wear helmets while driving a two wheeler.
- While travelling a car one should wear seat belt including the children.

## Drive Only If You Are Competent Enough

*A person must drive a vehicle only if s/he is competent enough to drive the vehicle*

- Drive only if you are a competent driver with a valid licence.
- If you are not competent enough, then learn driving from an authorised driving training school.
- Learn driving on roads only during morning hours when traffic is less and avoid during busy hours.

## ROAD SIGNALS

### Know Road Signs and Honour Them

For a smooth movement of traffic, certain road signs have been defined which must be followed for safe driving. These signs have a very important role to play in the traffic system and they are formulated for the safety of the people. According to the Congress of Indian Roads, these signs and traffic symbols have been categorised into three different categories.

1. **Mandatory road signs** are circular with one or two bars

2. One Way; Compulsory Ahead; Right Turn or Left Turn; Slow Moving; Vehicles Prohibited; Height Limit; Horn Prohibited; No Parking; Go Slow; U-turn Prohibited etc. are some important mandatory signs.

3. **Cautionary road signs** those are triangular Intersection; Roundabout; Speed Breakers; Pedestrian Crossing; Major Road Ahead; Unguarded Railway Crossing; Narrow Road or Bridge, etc. are some of the cautionary signs.

4. **Informatory road signs** that are square shaped or rectangular

Petrol pump; Resting Place; Parking; Public Telephone Booth; Hospital, etc. are some of the informatory signs.

*For a safe driving, Cautionary road signs are as important as Mandatory signs.*



One can easily distinguish these signs through their designs. Follow these cautionary signs for a safe and smooth journey.

### Familiarity with Road Markings

For smooth movement and disciplined traffic, some roads are provided with different markings of which one should be aware of. These markings are done in white and yellow colours. Hence, be aware of these markings:



### Road Dividing Lines

- These markings are done to divide a road, not divided by elevated dividers, into two parts.
- These are marked sometimes by single yellow lines and sometimes by double yellow lines in the centre of the road.
- As per rule, you should always drive on the left side of the road.

### Line Marking

- These lines are marked in white before traffic lights and zebra crossings.
- Always stop before the stop line if the light is yellow or red.

### Turning Lines

- These lines in arrow and painted in white indicate left or right turn or straight drive.

### Line Driving for Safety

Line driving is the best way to be safe on the roads.

- Stick to your lane.
- Wherever available, bicycle riders and pedestrians should use bicycle tracks and foot paths respectively.
- On multi-lane roads there are separate lanes for different vehicles and the drivers should stick to these lanes.
- Change your lanes only if you have to overtake some other vehicles or take right turn.

**While overtaking, a driver must take the following steps:**

- Check behind on your right and if there is no vehicle approaching you, move to the right side of your lane.
- Keep the following distance sufficient enough to permit acceleration signal right and move ahead of the vehicle you have to overtake.
- After securing sufficient distance from the overtaken vehicle, signal left and change direction gently.
- Never overtake a vehicle from left.
- Never overtake a vehicle which is already overtaking some other vehicle.
- Follow rules given in first and second points for right turn.

### Learn to Negotiate a Roundabout

Most of the town and city roads of our country have by and large, crossing. However, there are several roundabouts in our country where there are no traffic lights. Drivers are expected to negotiate them, according to their prudence. Apart from beautification, these roundabouts facilitate smooth flow of traffic. So while negotiating a roundabout, follow these rules:

- While approaching a roundabout, fix your direction and slow down.
- Take left lane for a left turn. Use central and right lane only for going straight and taking a right turn.
- Give appropriate signal by hand or through indicator, before taking a turn.
- Always give way to the vehicles on your right.



### Traffic Signals

Traffic signals or stop lights are positioned on the road intersection and they are used for indicating that whether it is safe to walk or not. People should follow all the Traffic signs and should be able to understand the displayed information through colour code.

### Understand Traffic Lights and Signals for Safety

Traffic lights and signals are the language of the road.

Be well acquainted with them, and act accordingly, you will be safe. Not following them can put you and other road users in danger, therefore, understand the meaning of traffic lights and signs. Also be aware of the road margins.

### Traffic Lights

- There are three colours in traffic lights.
- Red Light means mandatory stop.
- Yellow light warns you and tells you to prepare for halt, never try to cross the intersection when the light is yellow.
- Green means proceed ahead slowly after ensuring that no vehicle is criss-crossing.
- Move according to the traffic light signals.



### Traffic Signals

- All drivers must understand the signals of traffic constables and fellow drivers and honour them.
- Drivers must understand the stop, move, left turn, right turn, go straight or slow down signals or the traffic constable and fellow drivers on the road and act accordingly.



### Driving Uphill

Driving in hilly areas is a testing time even for the seasoned drivers since the topography of hills is extremely different from those of the plains. Hence,



while driving in a hilly terrain, one must keep the following aspects into consideration:

- One should never overload his/her vehicle as there can be taxing for the vehicle and also put extra load on steering.
- The roads in hilly areas are generally narrow and at many places traffic flows from both directions. Always allow heavier vehicles or upgoing vehicles to pass by – descending vehicles should provide enough room for ascending vehicles.
- In case of rain, snowfall, landslide or gravel falling situation, one should stop his vehicle near some wide patch or the road where hills are strong.
- Do not drive in hilly areas during night hours unless in case of an emergency.
- Approaching a turn, one should slow down his vehicle to the maximum level, blow horn and then move slowly.

### Night Driving

Driving during nights is extremely different from day driving and most of the accidents take place during nights. This is because:

- Most of the city roads, except highways have lesser movement of traffic. Drivers often indulge in over speeding their vehicles and often skip red lights causing accidents.



- The visibility during nights becomes less and this may lead to accidents.
- Drivers are sleepy and they fall asleep while driving, which causes accidents.

Hence, while driving during nights one must follow the following rules:

- Do not indulge in over speeding.
- Follow all traffic signals and signs.
- Keep your headlights on and use dipper to see clearly and be seen.
- Two wheeler drivers, cyclists and pedestrians must wear light coloured clothes during night, so that can be clearly seen.
- Do not look at the headlights of an oncoming vehicle.
- While parking your vehicle during night, one must ensure that parking lights are on.