

## Event Report

# District Level Workshop Good Samaritan Guidelines Challenges and Way Forward

## Issues Focussing on Good Samaritan

August 26, 2021, Udaipur

### Background

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Over 13 lakh people have been died in the past decade due to road crashes in India. In the absence of an efficient Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system in India, the role of bystanders is crucial in saving the lives of victims in road crashes. As per the Law Commission of India, 50 percent of those killed in road crashes could have been saved, if rapid assistance had been rendered. This assertion was also reaffirmed by World Health Organisation (WHO).

According to WHO, 50 percent of victims of road accidents die in the first 15 minutes due to severe cardiovascular or neurological injuries, and the rest can be saved by providing basic life support during the 'Golden Hour'. However, due to fear of harassment by police, detention at hospitals, and prolonged legal formalities, bystanders are reluctant to come forward to help accident victims on the road.

In 2012, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court of India under Article 32 of the Constitution of India in the public interest for the development of a supportive legal framework for the protection of Good Samaritans, i.e., bystanders, who render help to the injured persons or a person in distress on the road. The petition's objective was to create an enabling legal framework for the comprehensive protection of Good Samaritans from ensuing legal and procedural hassles. On March 30, 2016, the Hon'ble Court approved the guidelines and SOPs issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Under Article 141 of the Constitution, Hon'ble Court gave it 'force of law', thereby binding all States and Union Territories of India and, therefore, instituting the Good Samaritan Law. In 2019, these guidelines ultimately became part of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019 by inserting a new Section 134A. But, on the whole, there is little awareness about this new section on the rights of Good Samaritan, which now fully protects those who selflessly and proactively come forward to

assist injured persons on the road. Looking to the above facts and importance of the issue, CUTS implemented a project supported by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India, focusing on spreading awareness on the rights of Good Samaritan as enshrined in the M V Act, 2019.

The Udaipur workshop is the third in the series organised on August 26, 2021. The purpose of organising this workshop was to analyse the current opportunities, challenges and way forward related to the rights of Good Samaritan.

## Proceedings

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**Mohan Dangi**, President, Praytna Samiti, Udaipur, welcoming all the participants and guests threw some light on the workshop's overall objective. He said that a man behind the wheel plays a vital role in most crashes. In most cases, crashes occur either due to carelessness or a lack of road safety awareness of the road user. Hence, road safety education is as essential as any other basic survival skill.



**Deepak Saxena**, Assistant Director, CUTS CART, briefly introduced the workshop's objectives. He provided a brief introduction of each guest speaker. Saxena said that 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 to avoid



negligent death. He said that there is no legal impediment for a medical professional when 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 of the medical professional and the police or any other citizen who happens to be connected with the matter or notice such an incident.



**Anamendra Sharma, Head, Trauma Ward**, highlighted the methodology on how to contribute to road safety by improving the vehicle response of urban emergency medical services using road safety investments. It is a well-known fact that ‘Health of the Nation’ is more important than the ‘Wealth of the Nation’. Hence, road safety is a significant public health concern and attention must be placed on road safety measures. Strict adherence to road safety measures reduces road accident injuries and road accidents. Sharma said that road-related accidents are undoubtedly the most frequent and, overall, the cause of the most damage. He said that the main reasons for this are the extremely dense road traffic and the relatively great freedom of movement given to drivers. He raised concern that road accidents lead to loss of lakhs of lives and serious injuries to crores of people every year. In India itself, about 80,000 people are killed in road crashes every year, 13 percent of the total fatality worldwide.

**Prakash Singh Rathore, RTO, Udaipur**, spoke that the Law Commission of India states that 50 percent died in such crashes could have been saved if they had received timely medical attention. Rathore opined that the person behind the wheel plays an essential role in most road accidents. In most cases, road accidents occur either due to carelessness or a lack of road safety awareness of the road user. Therefore, road safety education is as essential as any other basic survival skills, and a good Samaritan can play a vital role in this aspect.



**Bhaiya Lal, DSP, Traffic, Udaipur**, said emergency responders are at much greater peril when operating on a roadway incident. Traffic police serve two main functions; first, to manage the efficient and safest means of travel for all roadway users, and secondly, to assist with traffic safety (including rerouting) at roadway emergencies.

**Narayan Chaudhary, Aadhaar Foundation, Udaipur**, provided basic inputs on Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), a lifesaving medical procedure administered to someone in cardiac arrest. CPR aims to make sure that oxygenated blood keeps flowing through the victim’s body to keep the vital organs alive until advanced care arrives. There was a live demo of CPR.



## Vote of Thanks

The programme ended with a vote of thanks from Amit Babu, Programme Associate, CUTS International. Around 25 persons participated in the workshop, including guests, and he finally expressed gratitude towards the participants for actively participating in the training.

## Glimpses



## Programme Schedule

Time	Activity	Guest/Resource Person
<b>10.00-11:00</b>	Arrival, Registration of Delegates & Tea	
<b>11.00-12.15</b>	<b>Inaugural Session</b>	
<b>11.00-11.05</b>	Welcome Expectations from the Workshop	<b>Anil Dutt Vyas</b> Praytna Samiti, Udaipur
<b>11.05-12.00</b>	Opening Remarks and Presentation on Good Samaritan-Key Highlights	<b>Deepak Saxena</b> Assistant Director, CUTS International
<b>12.00-12.15</b>	Short Films on Good Samaritan	
<b>12.15- 14.00</b>	<b>Technical Session</b>	
	Panel Discussion: (Moderator: Deepak Saxena, Assistant Director, CUTS International)	<u>Guest Speakers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Anamendra Sharma, Head, Trauma Ward, Maharana Bhopal Hospital, Udaipur</li> <li>• Shri Ratan Chawla, SP, Traffic, Udaipur</li> <li>• Shri Prakash Singh Rathore, RTO, Udaipur</li> <li>• Shri Narayan Choudhary, Aadhar Foundation, Udaipur</li> </ul>
<b>14.00-14.05</b>	Summary and Vote of Thanks	<b>Amit Babu</b> Programme Officer, CUTS International
<b>14.05</b>	Lunch & Departure	

## List of Participants

S.N.	Name	Name and Address of the Organisation
1.	Zuned Khan Komal	SPWD, 95, Garib Nawaz Colony, Near ITO, Udaipur
2.	Viren Lobo	IELA, 417/24, Rani Road, Opp. Sanjay Pole, Udaipur
3.	Rahul Meghwal	Moti Kheda, Dabok
4.	Chunni Lal Meghwal	Moti Kheda, Dabok
5.	Laxmi Lal Meghwal	Moti Kheda, Dabok
6.	Kanti Lal	Kailasi Gonaji, Udaipur
7.	Mohan Dangi	Prayatna Samiti
8.	Pankaj Sharma	Pratap Nagar
9.	Raghu Dutt	ASTHA, 39, Khauval Colony, Udaipur
10.	Banshi Lal Suthar	Srajan Manch Sanstha, Udaipur
11.	Dr. Ranveer Mehta	Indian Red Cross, Udaipur
12.	Dr. Lily Jain	45, New Vidya Nagar, Dabok Udaipur
13.	Narendra Kumar	123, Panerion ki Madari, Udaipur
14.	S.P. Vyas	755, L- 113, Sec. 9, Udaipur
15.	Kanhaiya Lal Menaria	Parakh Sansthan
16.	Dharam Chand	RAAN, Udaipur
17.	Anil Vyas	Prayatna Samiti
18.	Pradeep Pradhan	ASTHA, Udaipur
19.	Kamlendra Singh	Samartha Samiti
20.	Mahi Maheshwari	Aadhar Foundation
21.	Sunita Samar	Aadhar Foundation
22.	Ajit Bomb	Aadhar Foundation

## Media Coverage

