

Report on  
**State Level Workshop**

# Good Samaritan Guidelines *Challenges and Way Forward*



November 11, 2021, Jaipur, Rajasthan



## Background

---

Over 13 lakh people have 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 who died in road crashes could have been saved if they had received rapid assistance. 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 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, Government of India, focusing on spreading awareness on the rights of Good Samaritan as enshrined in the MV Act, 2019.

The Jaipur workshop is the fourth in the series and was the state-level workshop, which included stakeholders from other districts of Rajasthan besides the target Ajmer, Kota and Udaipur. The purpose of organising this workshop was to analyse the current opportunities, challenges and way forward related to the rights of Good Samaritan.

## Proceedings

---

### Inaugural Session



**Deepak Saxena**, Assistant Director, CUTS International, briefly introduced the workshop's objectives and welcomed the guest speakers and participants. He provided a brief introduction to each panellist. Saxena said that every injured citizen brought for medical treatment should instantaneously be given medical aid to preserve life and after that, the procedural criminal law should be allowed to operate to avoid negligent death. There is no legal impediment for a medical professional when called upon or requested to attend to an injured person needing immediate medical assistance. The effort to save the person should be the top priority of medical professionals, police, or any other citizen who happens to be connected with the matter or notice such an incident. Saxena then invited the CUTS Director for his opening remarks to carry on with the proceedings.

**George Cheriyan**, Director, CUTS International, introduced the chief guest, other dignitaries and briefed them about the evolution of the Good Samaritan Concept. He insisted on a need to change police behaviour and hospital response. He stated that almost 1.5 lakh deaths occur yearly in the country, which is number one globally and aggregates as much as 11 percent of total accidents of the world. Cheriyan said that 70 percent of accidents mainly occur due to over speed driving. 'Good Samaritan' refers to someone who performs good things out of compassion and without expecting anything in return. He mentioned the origin of the word Samaritan from Samaria in Israel.



**Biju George Joseph**, ADGP Vigilance, Rajasthan Police speaking as the Chief Guest in the programme said that around 58 percent of deaths occur due to traffic accident injuries. If the injured sufferer is sent to the hospital right away, he may preserve his life. Joseph further stated that there were 19,114 accidents in Rajasthan in 2020, and 9200 people died. The majority of road crashes occurred on highways. He highlighted that whoever is helping victims deserves our support and that police should always be prepared to support them. He also highlighted the need and importance of 'Golden Hour' and awareness that needs to be raised about 'Good Samaritan.'

**Mahendra Soni**, Transport Commissioner, Government of Rajasthan as Special Guest, endorsed the demands and said that the government would do whatever was required to ensure Rajasthan road safety. He said that there is a need to enhance community awareness. He was grieved by the recent road accident in which 12 individuals died in Balotra, between Jodhpur and Barmer. Soni highlighted that people should be aware of the term ‘Good Samaritan’, and that simply rewarding Good Samaritans is insufficient. Soni went into detail about government's ‘Jeevan Rakshak Yojana’ plan. He said that people should not become ‘Good Samaritan’ simply because they will get an award. Instead, they should come forward, thinking it is a good cause and support the government. Soni further emphasised that to reduce the number of accidents, the government needs the help of hospitals, the media, the police, and the local community.



**Dr. Narottam Sharma, Chief Medical & Health Officer (CMHO), Jaipur-I**, speaking as Special Guest, said that ‘Golden Hour’ has underlined the importance of making everyone aware about using CPR. Dr Sharma was particularly concerned that the term ‘Good Samaritan’ be taught in schools so that the next generation understands its importance. He said it is the period following a traumatic injury, which matters a lot and then a prompt medical and surgical treatment will help prevent death. Dr. Sharma also provided some statistical data, like last year, there were fewer deaths in the trauma centres across the State of Rajasthan compared to previous years. He suggested that people working on *Highway Dhabaas* should be trained to help accident victims.

**Deepak Saxena**, CUTS Assistant Director, made a presentation describing the history and evolution of ‘Good Samaritan’ in the country regarding road crashes. Saxena mentioned the case of *Advocate Parmanand Katara Vs. Union of India*, which later led to Section 134 in the prevailing law. Finally, the whole journey ended up with the framing of Section 134A in the new MV Act of 2019 with rights and duties of ‘Good Samaritan’. He also briefed about activities undertaken within the project like district-level workshops held in select three cities and fixing posters in select hospitals of four target cities, including Jaipur.



## Technical Session



Madhu Sudan Sharma, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS, moderated the technical session. Sharma said that lack of awareness of people is also responsible, resulting in the non-availability of timely care to the victims and deaths. He informed that only 28 percent of the total population in Jaipur know about Good Samaritan rights, and the percentage reduces to 16 percent when it comes to the national level. He raised concern that around 61 percent of cases of road accidents are either not investigated properly, or there is a flaw in the investigation. Sharma said that the Good Samaritan must be allowed to leave without any inquiry by the hospitals. He even mentioned that various incentives like certificates are given to a Good Samaritan to motivate more people to help accident victims.

**Nidhi Singh**, Joint Transport Commissioner, emphasised the importance of providing training on ‘Good Samaritan’ to school physical education teachers, government drivers and NGOs. Nidhi spoke about innovative initiatives of road safety cells in SMS Trauma Care Centre. She also shared the information about the training imparted to 450 police officials on Basic Life Support.



**Dr Girdhar Goyal**, Trauma Care Expert at SMS Hospital Trauma Care Centre, spoke about the necessity of pre-hospital care, BLS training, and the need to build enforcement authorities' ability in pre-hospital care. He went over each aspect of trauma care. Goyal also shared information about Skill Development Labs. He said that even the Trauma Centre staff earlier used to pen down the details of the person bringing the accident victim to the trauma centre. But after the Good Samaritan Guidelines, the number of people getting accident victims has significantly increased, and even the Trauma Centre staff does not ask for the details of the Good Samaritan.

**L N Pandey**, State Nodal Officer in Transport Department of Government of Rajasthan, spoke about insights of Good Samaritan. Pandey shared vital information that 40 primary trauma centres have been established in various districts of Rajasthan. He also mentioned that there had been a downfall in the accident rate of Rajasthan after 2015. Pandey also discussed the 4 Es of road safety, i.e., Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Environment. Pandey further mentioned that if the accident victim gets initial medical treatment in the first one hour of the accident, the chances of death are reduced by 50 percent. He also stated that



people are unaware of the Good Samaritan and their unawareness is a significant problem. Thus the people should be made aware of Good Samaritan rights. He said the government is working in the direction of road safety.



**Praveen Kumar Meena**, Inspector, Traffic Education in Traffic Police, Jaipur, spoke about the proper utilisation of the golden hour. He stated that if the golden hour duration is properly utilised, many people's lives can be saved every year, thus decreasing the number of deaths caused by road accidents. Meena pointed out that anyone can be a Good Samaritan; anyone helping an accident victim without any intention of getting something in return shall be considered a Good Samaritan. He said that the public must help the accident victims as it is only responsible for the death of an accident victim if the death is caused by the negligence and ignorance of the bystanders. He concluded by taking an oath to follow traffic rules.

## Vote of Thanks

---

The programme ended with a vote of thanks from Dharmendra Chaturvedi, Programme Officer CUTS International. Nearly 60 road safety specialists and delegates attended the workshop. Finally, he expressed gratitude towards the participants for actively participating in the training.



## Recommendations

---

- Spread the message of Good Samaritan as per Section 134A effective
- Promote civic engagement to aid in implementing the Good Samaritan guidelines
- Train bystanders on the importance of Golden Hour and Basic Life Support
- Punish hospitals, police officials and legal professionals who violate the provisions in the law. Also, initiate disciplinary action against them per provisions of the law
- Private hospitals to provide free medical treatment to road accident victims across the state
- Create a multi-stakeholder task force to enforce the law provisions in the state effectively
- Enhance civic engagement to aid in the implementation process of the Good Samaritan Law and awareness of the same

## Highlights

---

- Biju George Joseph, ADGP Vigilance, Rajasthan Government, Mahendra Soni, IAS, Transport Commissioner, Govt. of Rajasthan participated and provided valuable experiences.
- Participation of the Road Safety Cell officials from the top was highly beneficial.
- Active participation of the Traffic Police, Medical and Health Department, NGOs, CSOs, individual road safety experts, the media and women stakeholders was helpful.



## Programme Schedule

Time	Activity	Guest/Resource Person
<b>10.30-11:00</b>	Arrival, Registration of Delegates & Tea	
<b>11.00-12.25</b>	<b>Inaugural Session</b>	
	Welcome Expectations from the Workshop	<b>Deepak Saxena</b> <b>Assistant Director</b> CUTS International
	Opening Remarks	<b>George Cheriyan</b> Director, CUTS International
	Address from Special Guest	<b>Shri Mahendra Soni, IAS</b> Transport Commissioner, Transport Department, Govt. of Rajasthan
	Address from Special Guest	<b>Dr Narottam Sharma, CMHO, Jaipur-1<sup>st</sup></b>
	Address from Chief Guest	<b>Shri Biju George Joseph, IPS</b> ADGP Vigilance, Govt. of Rajasthan
	Unveiling of Posters	<b>By Honourable Guest</b>
	Conferring the Gram Gadar Award	<b>By Honourable Guest</b>
<b>12.25-12.30</b>	<b>Short Break</b>	
<b>12.30-13.30</b>	<b>Technical Session</b>	
	Key Highlights of Good Samaritan Guidelines-A Presentation	<b>Deepak Saxena</b> Assistant Director, CUTS International
	<u>Panel Discussion</u> : Moderator: <b>Madhu Sudan Sharma,</b> <b>Senior Programme</b> <b>Coordinator, CUTS</b> International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Smt. Nidhi Singh</b> Joint TC (Road Safety)</li> <li>• <b>Dr Girdhar Goyal</b> Trauma Expert, SMS Hospital, Jaipur</li> <li>• <b>Dr L N Pandey</b> State Nodal Officer, Department of Transport, GoR</li> <li>• <b>Shri Praveen Kumar Meena</b> Inspector, Road Traffic Education, Traffic Police, Jaipur</li> </ul>
<b>13.30-13.35</b>	Summary, Vote of Thanks and Way Forward	<b>Dharmendra Chaturvedi</b> Programme Officer, CUTS International
<b>13.35</b>	Lunch & Departure	

## List of Participants

S.No.	Name	Name and Address of the Organisation
1.	M.L. Sharma	Sahyog Samajik Sansthan, 86, PadamVihar, Chokhi Dhani, TonkRoad, Jaipur
2.	Dharampal Ashiwal	DTO, Jagatpura
3.	Pukhraj Acharya	Anavarat Organisation, Jaipur
4.	Raj Sharma	Saakaar Sanstha, 84, Suraj Nagar (east), Civil Lines, Jaipur
5.	Rajesh Kumar Meena	77, New Colony, Sirsi Road, Jaipur
6.	Rajesh Malakar	Vikasonmukh Sansthan
7.	Sharda Saini	Vikasonmukh Sansthan
8.	Deep Chand	Vikasonmukh Sansthan
9.	Ashutosh	Shiv Shikshan Sansthan, Pratap Nagar, Sanganer, Jaipur
10.	Avinash	Shiv Shikshan Sansthan, Pratap Nagar, Sanganer, Jaipur
11.	Sindhu Upadhyay	117/190, Agarwal Farm, Jaipur
12.	Bharti Mathur	Manav Vikas Research Organisation, Pratap Nagar, Sanganer, Jaipur
13.	Dr. Amit Kumar	Kumarappa Institute, Jaiur
14.	Vinod Kumar Sharma	Awareness Training & Motivation for Action, Jagmalpura, Via- Jobner, Jaipur
15.	Renu Agarwal	Satya Bal Ashram
16.	Nidhi Singh	Joint Commissioner, Transport Department
17.	Dr. L.N. Pandey	SMO (RS)
18.	Dr. Neelam Bageshwari	Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur
19.	George Cheriyan	Director, CUTS International
20.	Hemraj Singh	Lodo NGO
21.	Nand Kishore Dubey	Laado NGO
22.	Aslam Qureshi	Avasana Rang Theatre Society, Jaipur
23.	S.N. Gupta	Honhaar Sansthan
24.	B.N. Sharma	CUTS International
25.	Kedar Sharma	SGVM School, 36, Ganesh Vihar
26.	Neetu Sharma	SGVM School, 36, Ganesh Vihar
27.	Praveen Meena	Traffic Inspector
28.	Dr. S.K. Charan	Rajasthan University
29.	Manju Sain	AZGVS, Masuda
30.	Raghvendra Singh	Consumer Research Centre, Masuda
31.	Narendra Pal	Gram Upbhokta Samiti

S.No.	Name	Name and Address of the Organisation
32.	Piyush Sharma	Haldhar Times, Jaipur
33.	Dr. Narottam Sharma	CMHO-I, Jaipur
34.	Ram Mohan	Ambuja Cement Foundation, Jaipur
35.	Ashok Kumar Kanoongo	Honhaar Sanstha, 49, Rameshwar Dham, Murlipura, Jaipur
36.	Ashok Sharma	ATMA Sansthan, Jagmalpura, Via- Jobner, Jaipur
37.	Pankaj Sharma	ATMA Sansthan, Jagmalpura, Via- Jobner, Jaipur
38.	Biju George Joseph	ADGP, Vigilance, GoR
39.	Satya Narain Sharma	Record Sansthan, Sanganer
40.	Shiv Prakash	Civil Defence, Sodala
41.	Swati Dixit	Transport and Road Safety Department
42.	Manoj Kumar	ARTO, Jaipur
43.	Mahaveer Singh	Ganesh Vidya Mandir
44.	Dr. Vinay R. Joshi	MSU, Jaipur
45.	Dr. Girdhar Goyal	SMS Hospital, Jaipur
46.	Abhishek Pareek	Pehchan
47.	Ashok	Jaipur Youth Organisation
48.	Dilip Bhatt	Parampara Natya Samiti, 407, Gatore Road, Brhampuri, Jaipur
49.	Lalit Bhardwaj	
50.	Dr. Vinod Upadhyay	Harshit Sansthan, C-395, JDA Colony, Paladi Meena, Jaipur
51.	Dharmenda Chaturvedi	CUTS International
52.	Madhu Sudan Sharma	CUTS International
53.	Deepak Saxena	CUTS International
54.	Satyapal Singh	CUTS International
55.	Pratibha Jain	CUTS International

## 'गुड सेमेरिटन के लिए राज्य में जागरुकता की आवश्यकता'



जयपुर @ पत्रिका. कन्ज्यूमर यूनिटी एण्ड ट्रस्ट सोसायटी (कट्स) की ओर से सड़क, परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय के सहयोग से राजधानी में राज्य स्तरीय कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया।

'गुड सेमेरिटन गाइडलाइन्स : चैलेंज एंड वे फॉरवर्ड' पर आयोजित कार्यशाला में 'कट्स' इंटरनेशनल के निदेशक जॉर्ज चेरियन ने कहा कि 80 प्रतिशत लोगों को गुड सेमेरिटन गाइडलाइन की जानकारी नहीं है। ऐसे में राज्य में इसके लिए जन जागरुकता अभियान चलाने की आवश्यकता है। विशेष अतिथि विजिलेंस के एडिशनल डायरेक्टर

जनरल बीजू जोसफ जॉर्ज ने कहा कि 2020 में राज्य में कुल 19,114 दुर्घटनाओं में लगभग 9,200 व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई। इनमें से लगभग 50 प्रतिशत को बचाया जा सकता था। जो भी व्यक्ति गुड सेमेरिटन के रूप में घायल की मदद करे, उसे परेशान नहीं किया जाए।

परिवहन आयुक्त महेंद्र सोनी, सीएमएचओ डॉ. नरोत्तम शर्मा तथा ट्रोमा केयर एक्सपर्ट डॉ. गिरधर गोयल सहित अन्य वक्ताओं ने भी कार्यक्रम को संबोधित किया। कार्यशाला में यातायात पुलिस, चिकित्सक व सड़क सुरक्षा से जुड़ी संस्थाओं के प्रतिनिधि मौजूद थे।

संदर्भित पत्रिका

## Glimpses of Event

