## **WEBINAR ON ZOOM**

CUTS ®
International

Tuesday
15:00-16:30 Hours
(Indian Standard Time)

October

## One year of Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 2019

## **Learnings from the Pandemic and Way Forward**





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In India, road safety is a very big issue. In 2018, India recorded a total of 151,417 road deaths and 4,69,418 injuries happened. Over-speeding caused 97,588 (64.4%) deaths and 3,16,421 (67.4%) injuries. Drink & driving caused 4188 deaths and 9944 injuries in 2018. 55,336 (36.5%) road deaths were recorded in two-wheeler category in 2018, out of which not wearing helmet caused 43,614 deaths and not wearing seatbelt led to 24,435 (16.14%) deaths. On other hand, road safety was governed by a very old MVA Act, 1988 and MVA Rules, 1989 until last year. During these long years road scenario in India has completely changed and number of vehicles increased drastically. So there was an urgent need of strengthening road safety laws in the country.

The day of July 31, 2019 ended with full of joy and celebrations, reason being that the MVAB, 2019 was passed by Rajya Sabha culminating the legislative processes for more than 5 years, which started on June 03, 2014 on the day a senior Cabinet Minister died in the heart of Delhi in a road accident. Though the MVAB, 2017 was passed by the Lok Sabha on April 10, 2017, NDA-I Government failed to get it passed in Rajya Sabha during the tenure of 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. Since the bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha, it got lapsed when the tenure of 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha ended. NDA-II took the matter seriously, and finally passage of the MVA Bill, 2019 by the Rajya Sabha has infused renewed enthusiasm among the supporters of the cause of road safety in the country. The bill got presidents assent on August 9, 2019 and became an Act formally that need to be followed with its corresponding rules within a year.

The scope of MVA Rules is very wide and lots of areas for rule-making were suggested by respective Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Committees. Now after completing one full year, most of the rules are notified and will come to effect from October 01, 2020. Except during the lockdown, when restrictions were imposed on vehicle movement, the road fatalities continues to increase in the country.