



Drive Safe

A GUIDE TO THE RULES OF THE ROAD



DRIVE SAFE: A GUIDE TO THE RULES OF THE ROAD

/accident/: Something bad that happens which is unexpected or unintended.

The term road accidents is misleading. It gives the idea that the collision of vehicles on the roads happen by chance and are therefore impossible to avoid. Research has shown that this is not true. In most cases there is a clear cause for the 'accident' such as faulty infrastructure, or mechanical problem with the vehicle, or violation of the rules by road users.

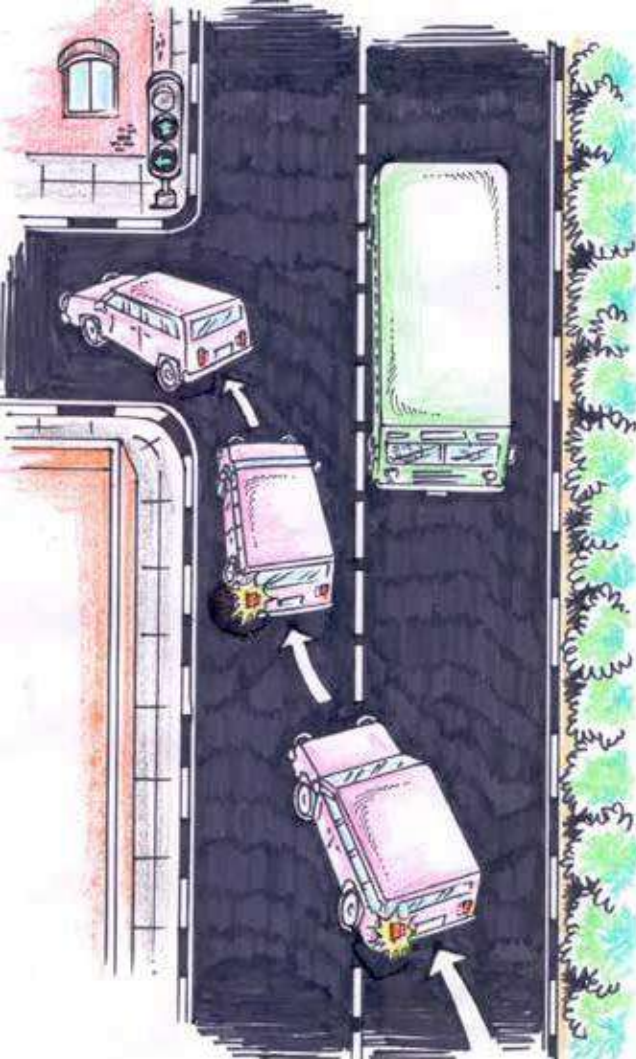
In fact, road accidents are now being called road crashes or road traffic incidents. While bringing road crashes to zero is very difficult, it is possible to reduce the number by a large amount. One way to do this is to obey the road rules. The Rules of the Road, 1989 (of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988) have been framed by the government to ensure maximum safety for everyone who uses the road. Unfortunately many road users in India seem unaware of the basic road rules of the country. People also assume that road rules can be bent/broken for short distances or that they don't apply during the middle of the night. In fact road rules apply at all times and to everyone using the road.

This booklet hopes to serve as a simple guide to some basic road rules. We hope the booklet will serve as an useful tool to anyone wishing to drive safely.

KEEP LEFT



Keep left – All vehicles must drive on the left side of the road except when overtaking another vehicle.



TURNING LEFT

Turning left - Before reaching the turn off, the driver must signal left, move to the leftmost lane and slow down. This is also applicable to vehicles planning to stop on the roadside.

Turning right – Before reaching the turn off, the driver must signal right, move to the centre of the road and slow down. Only when there is a long enough break in the oncoming traffic can she turn right. This is because the oncoming traffic has right of way. The turning angle should be such that on turning, the vehicle is on the left side of the road into which it is entering.

TURNING RIGHT



OVERTAKING

Overtaking - To overtake the vehicle ahead, a driver must ensure there is no traffic on the opposite side and then overtake the vehicle on its right. Overtaking on the left is allowed only if the vehicle in front has signalled it is turning right.

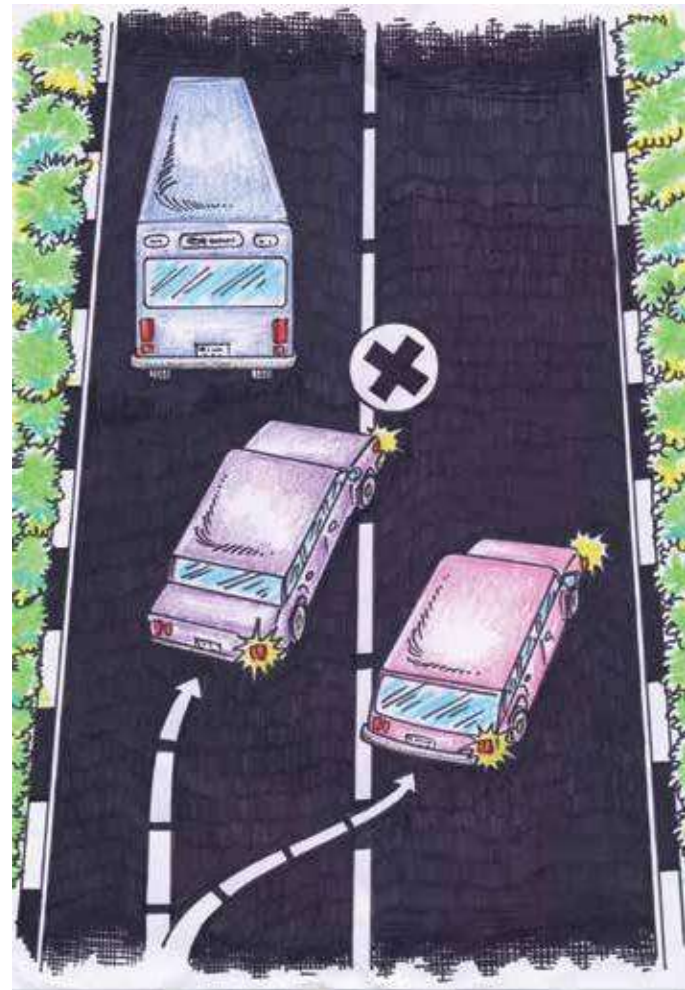


OVERTAKING PROHIBITED

Overtaking prohibited-

Do not try overtaking when:

1. The vehicle behind has begun to overtake you
2. When the road ahead is not clearly visible (such as on a bend)
3. The driver ahead has signaled it is not safe; it is unsafe or causing danger/inconvenience to other road users

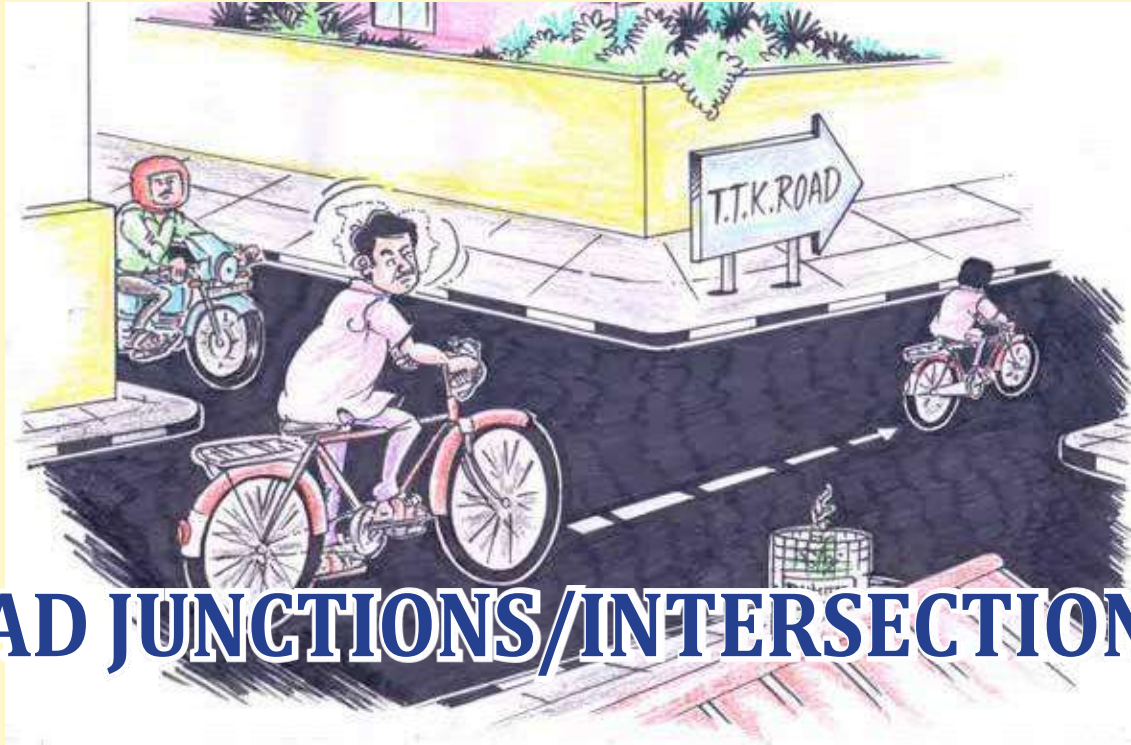




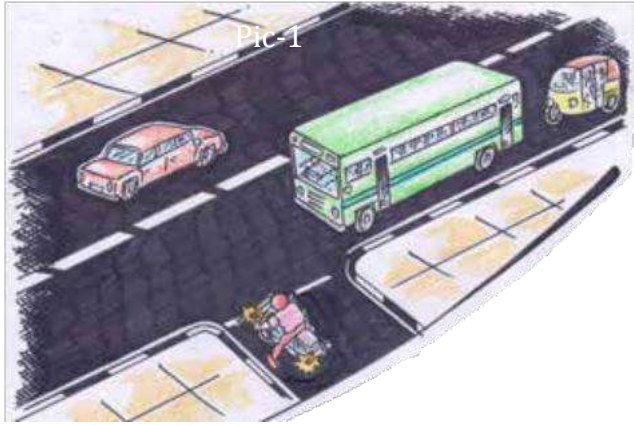
CHANGING LANES

Changing lanes - When changing lanes, a driver must ensure there is enough space for her vehicle in the lane she is moving into. The driver must also keep in mind the speed at which the vehicle ahead and behind are travelling.

Road junctions/intersections – On approaching a junction, a vehicle must slow to a stop, check for traffic in all directions and then cross the junction.



ROAD JUNCTIONS/INTERSECTIONS



Right of Way at junctions/intersections – When joining a larger road, a vehicle must give way to traffic on the larger road. When both roads are of the same size, the vehicle that reaches the junction first has right of way. If two (or more vehicles) reach at the same time, the vehicle to the right has right of way.



RIGHT OF WAY AT JUNCTIONS/INTERSECTIONS

Right of Way (Pedestrians) – Pedestrians have right of way at pedestrian crossings. Vehicles must stop *before* the pedestrian crossing and move only after the pedestrian has reached the pavement.

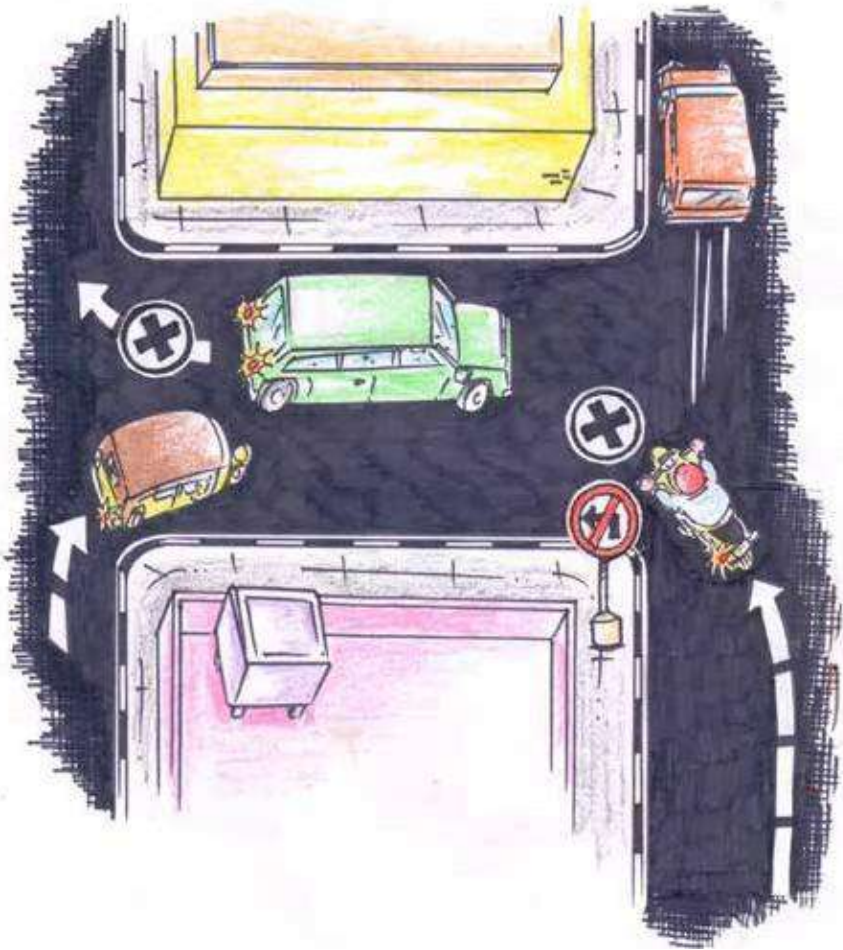
RIGHT OF WAY (PEDESTRIANS)



Right of Way (Emergency Vehicles) - Fire, Ambulance, Police vehicles have right of way at all times. Vehicles must use their indicator and move to one side of the road and stop, so a clear path is available for the emergency vehicle. Only after the emergency vehicle has gone past can vehicles start moving.

RIGHT OF WAY





One Way - In a one way road, all vehicles (including cycles) must drive only in the direction indicated as allowed by the sign board. Reversing is not allowed in a one way road.

ONE WAY

STOP LINE

Stop Line – At intersections and pedestrian crossings, vehicles must stop behind the STOP LINE. If there is no Stop Line, vehicles must stop in line with the centre median or the end of the pavement on that road, or behind the pedestrian crossing (if there is one).



NO HONKING

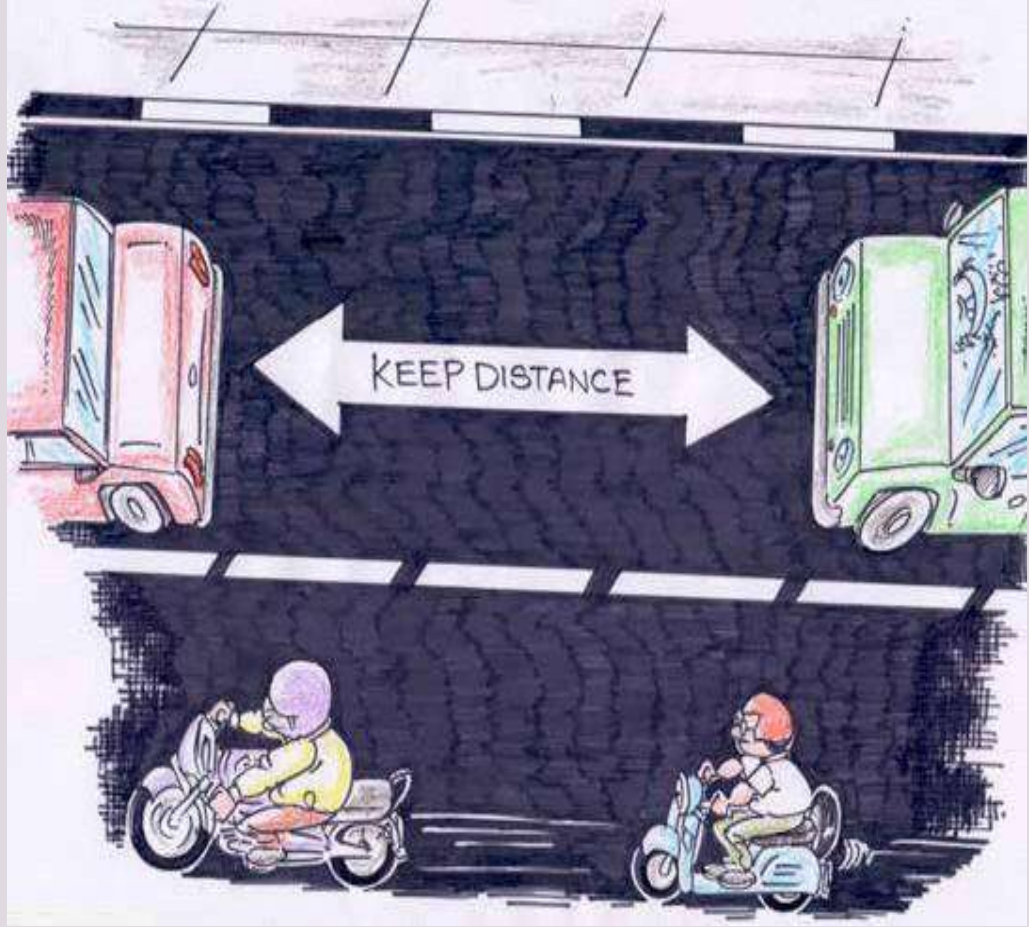


No honking - Use of horns is prohibited near hospitals, educational institutions, or when no horn signs are present. The lifting of this restriction is marked by the 'End of Restriction' sign board which consists of a black circle with a single black diagonal line.

STOPPING DISTANCE

Stopping distance –

A driver should keep at least one car length distance from the vehicle ahead. The greater the speed of the vehicle, the greater should be the distance maintained between the vehicles. This is to ensure the vehicle time to stop safely.



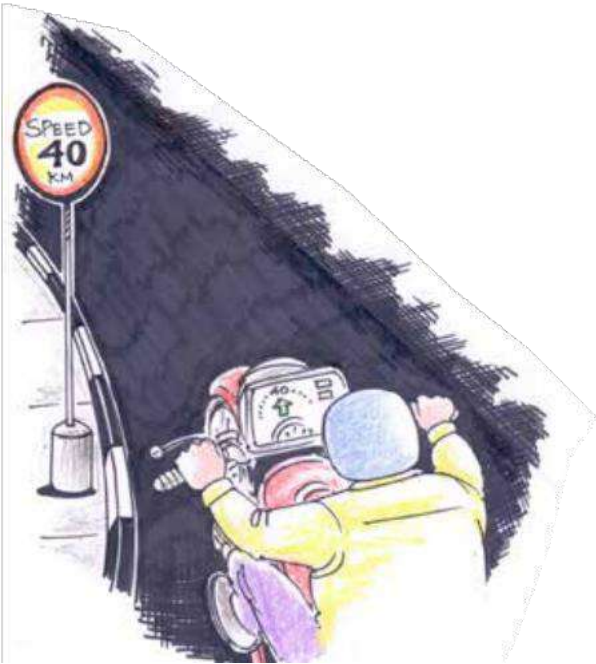
RIGHT OF WAY ON SLOPES

Right of way on slopes

Vehicles travelling up a slope have right of way.



Speed limits - Vehicles must follow the speed limit at all times.



**Near hospitals and educational institutes
- 20 km/h unless otherwise specified.**

SPEED LIMITS

Parking – On wide roads, vehicles may be parked at an angle to the pavement but should be parallel to each other. On narrow roads, parking is either not allowed or allowed only on one side. In this case, vehicles must be parked parallel to the pavement with sufficient space between vehicles to pull out safely.



Parking prohibited –

Parking is prohibited in the following situations:

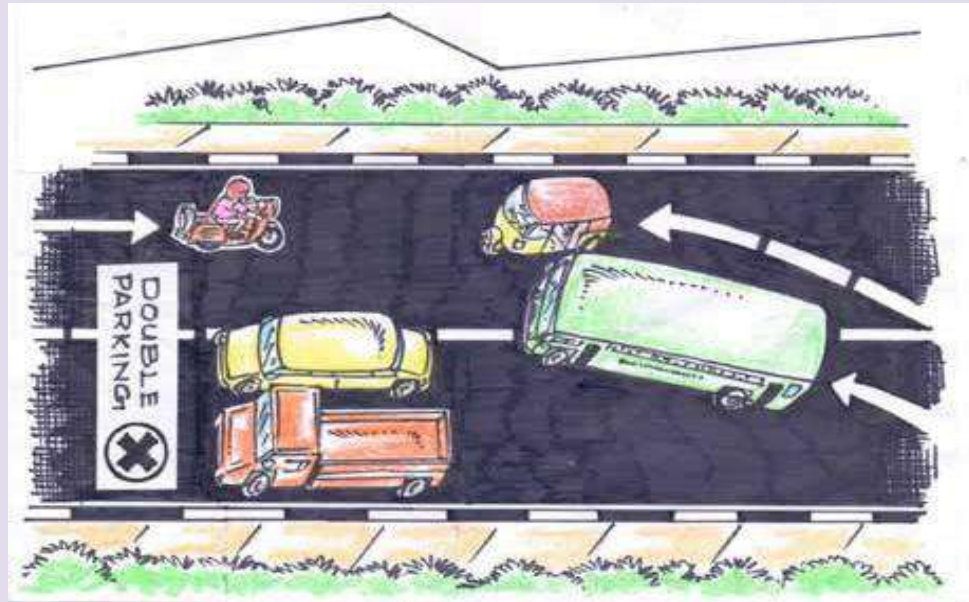
1. At intersections where the vehicle will hinder visibility for other road users
2. On bends or curves in the road
3. On the top of a slope
4. On pavements

PARKING PROHIBITED



Parking prohibited (contd.)

5. Near traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, educational institutes, hospitals, bus stops or if blocking an entrance
6. On the road next to another parked vehicle (double parking)
7. Where No Parking Signs have been placed by the Traffic Police



REVERSING



Reversing - When reversing into a road or joining the traffic, the driver must give way to the traffic.

Hand Signals – A driver must use the following signals to indicate her intention to other road users.

Stop - Raise right forearm vertically with palm facing forward

Slowing down - Extend right arm with the palm downward and move the arm up and down several times.

HAND SIGNALS



Hand Signals (contd.)

Right turn or to move to the right lane - Extend right arm with the palm turned down

Left turn or to move to the left lane - Extend right arm and rotate it in an anticlockwise Direction.

Overtaking - To allow the vehicle behind to overtake, extend right arm and wave the vehicle forward by moving the arm backward and forward in a semi-circular motion.

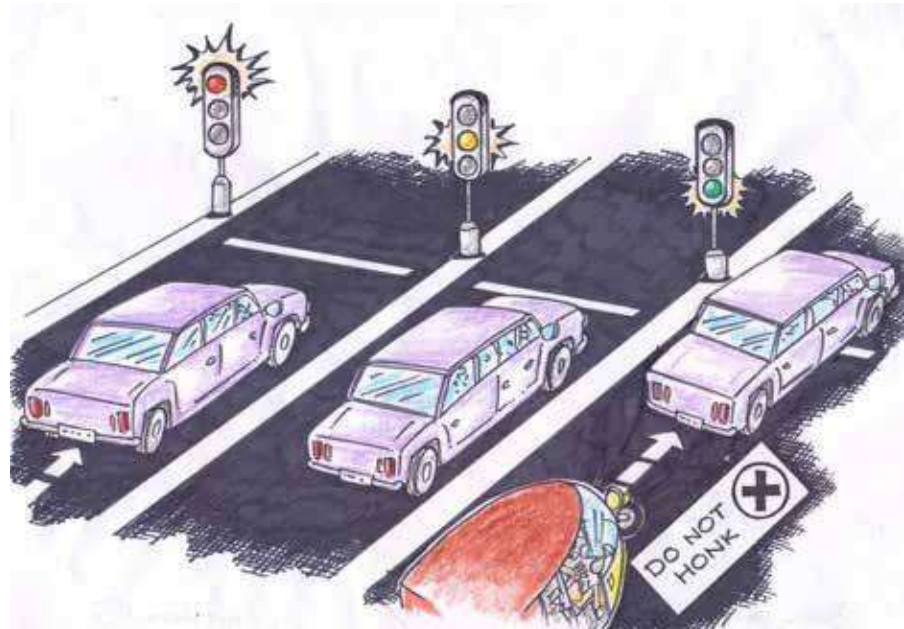


Traffic Lights

At traffic light or signal:

1. Vehicles must start moving **only after** the light turns green.
2. **DO NOT** honk as soon as the light turns green. The vehicles ahead require a few seconds to start moving.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS



Traffic Lights

When approaching a traffic light:

1. If the light turns amber, vehicles **SHOULD NOT** accelerate. Instead they must slow down and indicate they are stopping.
2. If the light is already green, a driver should continue at the same speed (and should not accelerate).
If the light changes before she can cross, she must stop.



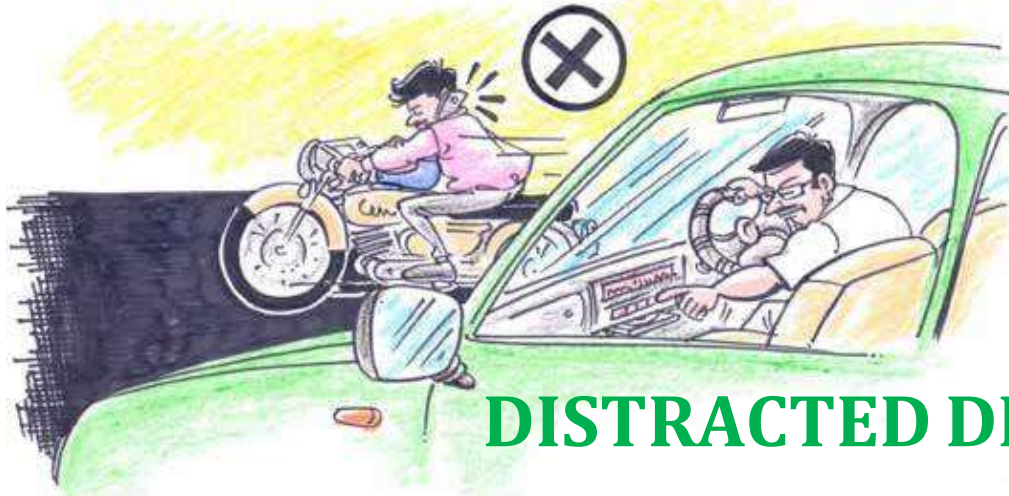
Line of sight - When driving past a parked vehicle that is blocking the driver's view of the pavement/platform, she should be cautious as pedestrians may step out on to the road suddenly.

Pedestrians should not cross the road from behind parked vehicles as they will not be visible to the traffic till it is too late. Pedestrians must cross the road in well lit areas for the same reason.

LINE OF SIGHT



Distracted driving - A driver should not multi task while driving. This includes eating, drinking (even water), talking on the phone (even hands free), combing hair, and texting. Anything that reduces the driver's concentration by even a small amount is enough to cause an accident.



DISTRACTED DRIVING

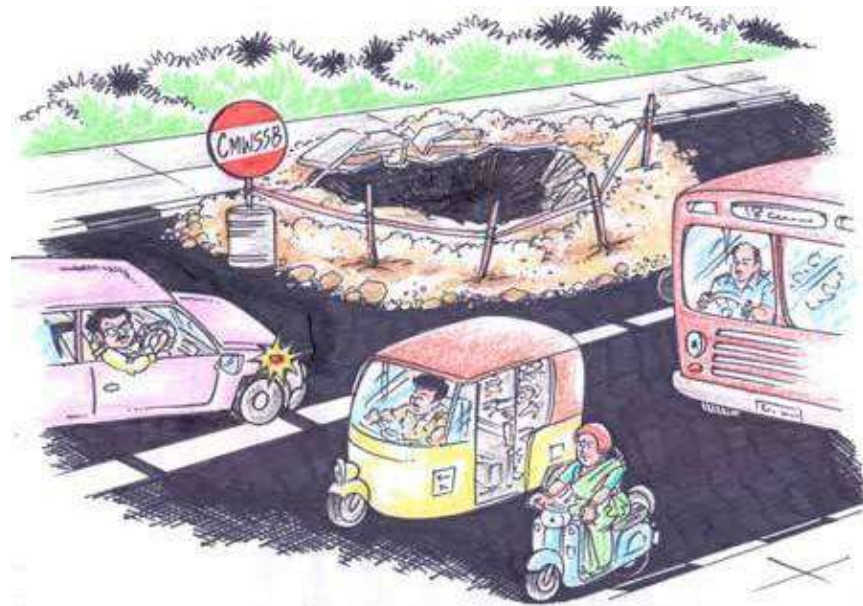
Road conditions – A driver must reduce her speed when the road is wet or sand/gravel is present. These conditions increase the chance of skidding and at higher speeds the driver will lose control of the vehicle.

ROAD CONDITIONS



Right of Way – When a driver has to drive on the wrong side to avoid an obstruction on her side of the road, she must ensure that there is no oncoming traffic. If there is oncoming traffic, then she must wait as the traffic has right of way.

RIGHT OF WAY



Lane markings

Centre line – the solid white line in the middle of the road indicates that a vehicle must drive on the left of that line.

Lane line – the broken white lines indicate the lanes on each side of the centre line. Vehicles must be driven between these broken white lines.



LANE MARKINGS

Lane markings

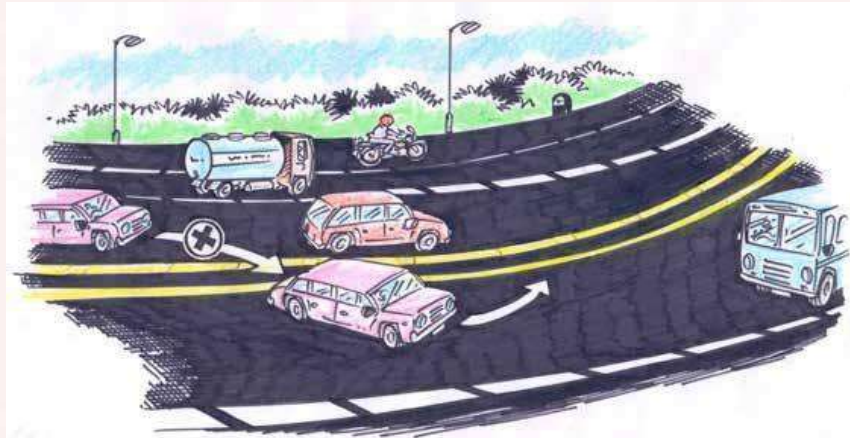
Road shoulder line – The solid yellow or white line on each side of the road marks the edge of the road space allotted to vehicles.

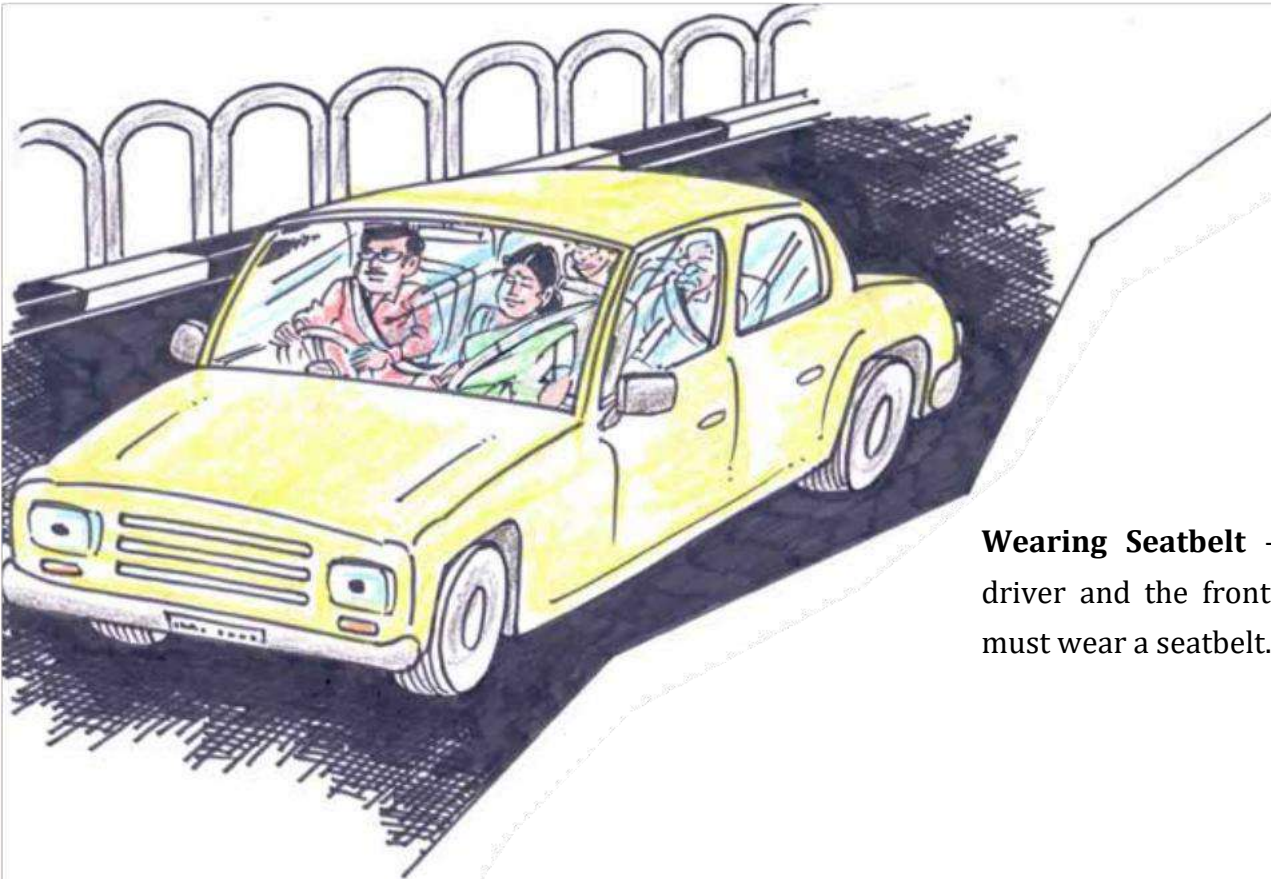
Solid yellow (single or double lines) – The solid yellow (single or double) line indicates that a vehicle may not cross the line. These are often seen instead of the center line in high traffic or low visibility areas.

Solid and broken line combination –

The center line is sometimes replaced by a solid line and a broken line combination.

Vehicles to the left of the broken line may cross the line to overtake but only after checking it is safe. Vehicles to the right of the solid line may not cross the line.



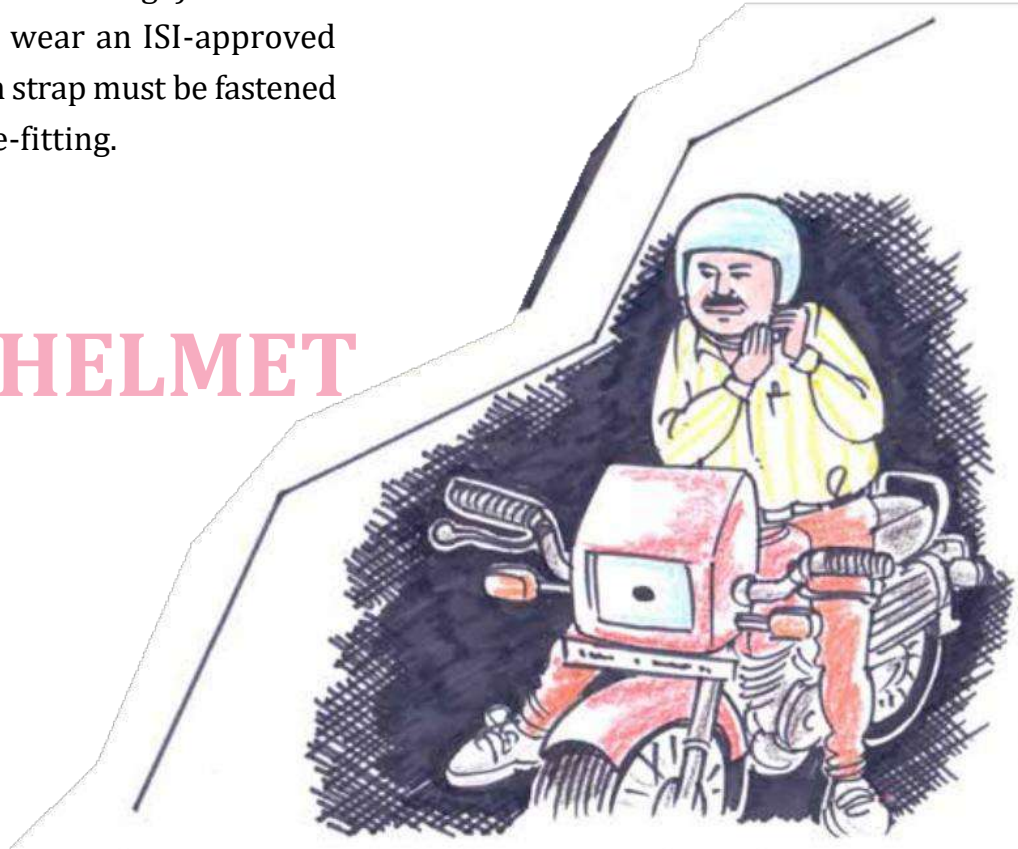


Wearing Seatbelt – In a car, the driver and the front seat passenger must wear a seatbelt.

WEARING SEATBELT

Wearing helmet- On a two-wheeler, only 2 persons are allowed to travel (irrespective of age) and both the rider and the pillion must wear an ISI-approved helmet that fits snugly. The chin strap must be fastened and tightened so that it is close-fitting.

WEARING HELMET



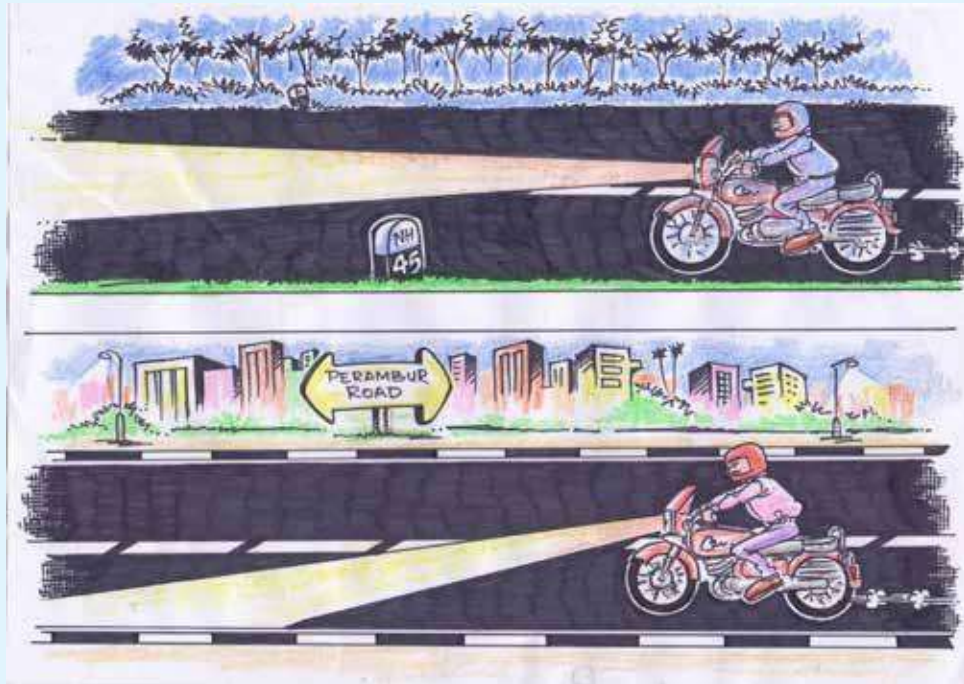
Drunk driving – A person who has consumed alcohol drinks (or drugs) must not drive any vehicle. If they do so and their blood alcohol concentration is more 0.03%, then they can be penalised. If a person under the influence of alcohol causes an accident that results in a death, they can be imprisoned.



DRUNK DRIVING

Using Dip/Dim Lights –

The headlight of every vehicle has two positions – high and low beam. High beam is to be used only on highways when the road in front is dark or inadequately lit. Low beam must be the default position.



Traffic Awareness On Road Safety

