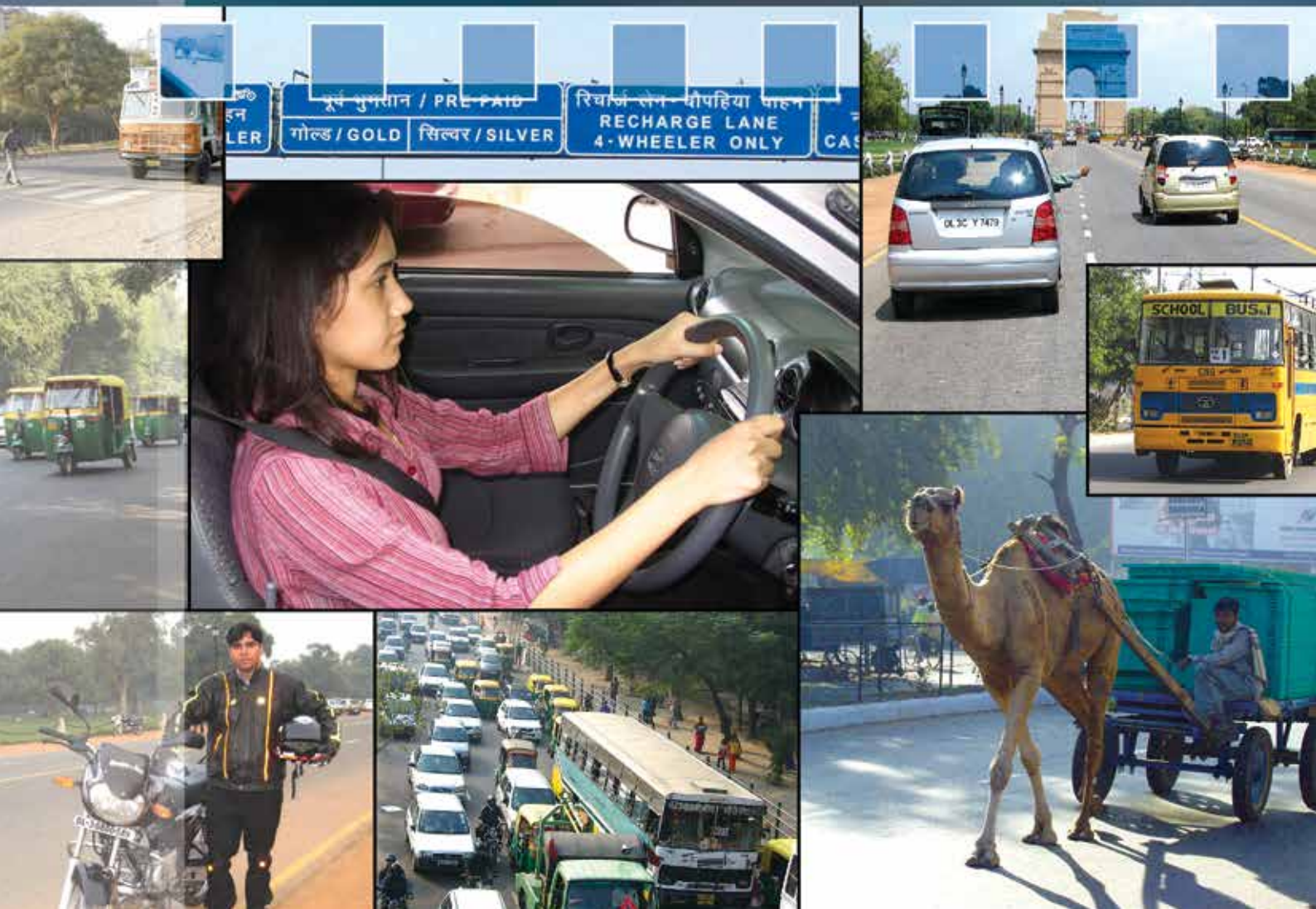


**Basic**

# Safe driving

The driving manual and rules of the road



# **Safe driving**

The driving basic manual and rules of the road

# Imprint

With India's fast paced development, comes a variety of problems. An increase in the number of vehicles on our roads, coupled with talking on the mobile phone, drinking and smoking while driving, all have proven to cause grave damage to life and property.

News is overflowing with incidents of deaths and injuries due to reckless driving. We must be careful, and not let ourselves become a part of this statistic.

Building a culture of educated and aware drivers who are sensitive to fellow road users, respect laws, and use the road responsibly is the only means to reduce the damage and senseless deaths caused on our roads everyday. Each one of us needs to take responsibility, and collectively we can change the nature of our roads, and road-users alike.

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**C-18, Chirag Enclave,**  
**New Delhi – 110 048 (India)**  
**Tel.: +91 11 4610 7654**  
**E-mail: [driving@he-india.com](mailto:driving@he-india.com)**  
**Web: [www.he-india.com](http://www.he-india.com)**  
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India has one of the largest and most intricate road networks, connecting even the remotest areas.

Today, India has nearly 6 crores vehicles. With an increase in the number of vehicles, there is also an increase in the number of accidents and fatalities.

There is a need of proper trained drivers. Safe driving comes through proper training. Merely learning how to drive, obtaining a driving licence and holding a vehicle certificate is not sufficient. You have to observe and respect road safety rules. These are for our protection and can save lives on our roads.

## » Indian road scenario



According to surveys and statistics in the last 50 years, India's automobile population has grown 170 times while the road infrastructure has expanded only 9 times.

The country's vehicle population is over 5.5 crores and growing at a phenomenal rate of 25 lacs every year.

In India, roads and highways are a nightmare for daily commuters. To avoid accidents and casualties to road users, one should know the traffic rules and regulations. Consideration and patience towards all road users is also a pre-requisite to being a safe driver.

The highway code is a set of simple rules, but their application can help in keeping the roads safe and saving lives.

The most important factors when using the roads are:

- ▶ Responsibilities of a driver.
- ▶ Complete knowledge and ability to understand traffic signs and rules.
- ▶ Adequate knowledge and regular maintenance of vehicle.
- ▶ Discipline on the road while driving.
- ▶ Behaviour of other road users.
- ▶ Ability to react and take quick decisions during difficult and dangerous situations.
- ▶ Basic knowledge of first aid.

## » The Road User and the Law

Driving a motor vehicle carries a great responsibility. Understanding and knowledge of road traffic rules, regulations and consideration towards other road users will help protect you and others, ensuring safety on our roads.

Knowing and applying traffic rules can help reduce accidents and save lives.

Road users include pedestrians children senior citizens disabled and blind persons cyclists and cycle rickshaws and even horsedrawn carriages.

# Introduction

Traffic rules are legal requirements. Failure to obey and observe them is a criminal offence and can lead to fines, disqualification from driving and in serious cases even imprisonment.

An untrained driver and reckless driving can lead to serious consequences and damage to life and property.

More than 100,000 people die on Indian roads every year.

Another million are injured or maimed. Most of them are pedestrians, cyclists and two wheeler riders.



In India, driving requires extra care, skill and caution.

Lack of road safety education can result in human tragedies or lead to major health problems. Many road accidents involve a high level of human suffering and monetary costs. The loss of a bread winner can lead to a severe crisis for a family. It is also a cause for poverty and lead to a negative socio economic growth.

Death and disability from road accidents is increasing all over the world. The WHO estimates that by 2020, deaths due to road accidents will be third most critical cause for unnatural deaths.

The present road conditions are chaotic. We have to improve:

- ▶ driving skills and training
- ▶ road and traffic infrastructure,
- ▶ the education system in order to change the attitude of all road users and law enforcement officers.

Implementation of the following programs can assist in a systematic reduction of the number of road accidents and providing better road facilities:

- ▶ Active road infrastructure planning.
- ▶ Proper management techniques of road safety.



- ▶ Adequate infrastructure for training all road users.
- ▶ Imparting knowledge regarding road safety to all road users.
- ▶ Regular awareness programmes followed by updated refresher courses.
- ▶ Training programmes on safety techniques and defensive driving.



Road safety is a collective as well as an individual responsibility.

A combination of proper defensive driving training, a high level of caution, courtesy and common sense along with consideration for other road users will ensure road safety.

# Traffic control devices



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Traffic control devices are tools used by the government or the local administration to warn, inform and regulate traffic in order to maintain discipline on the road and prevent accidents.

The rules enlisted under this section are applicable to all those using the road whether they are pedestrians or vehicle drivers.

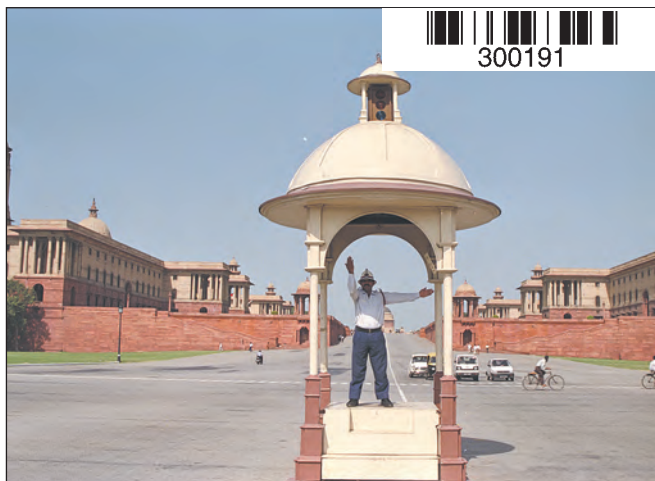
## » General

There are five types of traffic control devices. Hierarchical sequence is as follows:

- ▶ Traffic sergeant or warden.
- ▶ Traffic lights or road signals.
- ▶ Traffic or road signs.
- ▶ Traffic, road or pavement markings.
- ▶ Mobile road furniture or misc. devices.

## » Traffic police or warden

The traffic police, warden, NCC student, home guards or any other person deployed by an authorized agency control the traffic by means of hand signals/marshalling. Their instructions are final and can over rule any of the above mentioned traffic control devices. For instance if the light signal is green and traffic warden gives hand signals to stop, then you must stop.



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## Hand signals are as follows

- ▶ To stop a vehicle approaching from behind.



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- ▶ To stop a vehicle approaching from front.



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- ▶ Warning – Closing all traffic.



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- ▶ To stop a vehicle approaching from in front and behind simultaneously.



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- ▶ Allowing vehicles approaching from the left and right to go straight.



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# Traffic control devices

- ▶ Allowing vehicles approaching from the left and right to turn right.



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- ▶ Allowing only vehicles approaching from the left to go straight.



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- ▶ Allowing only vehicles approaching from the left to turn right.



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- ▶ Allowing only vehicles approaching from the right to go straight.



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- ▶ Allowing only vehicles approaching from the right to turn right.



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## Free left

Generally the left turn is not free at small or medium junctions.

While attempting to take a left turn off a major junction/intersection, check the location of the traffic signal.



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At intersections where the traffic light is placed on the left side of the road, the left turn is not free and you have to wait for the signal to allow you to take the turn.

In addition to the traffic light, there are regulatory sign boards indicating whether a left turn is free or not.

If there is no free left, wait for the signal to turn green.



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# Traffic control devices

## » Traffic lights

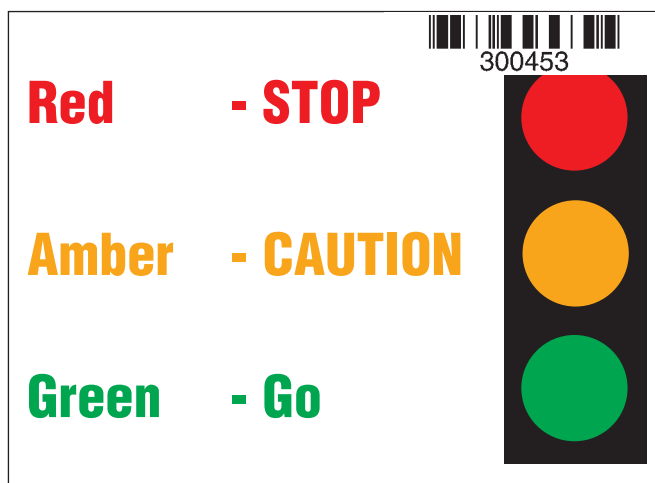
Traffic lights are generally installed at road junctions to systematically control the movement of vehicles. All traffic must move in conformity with these traffic lights. One must follow signals from the traffic lights facing you.

The light signals are placed in the centre of the junction. In the absence of a divider, they are placed on the left side of the road.



Often there are two lights – one closer to the traffic, and another across the road, in case the closer one is not visible due to congestion.

There are three colours of traffic lights. These signal the following commands:



## Red light

Red light means you are ordered to **stop**.

But if you intend turning left, then you must ascertain whether the left turn is free.



## Amber light

Amber light means **caution**.

If shone **after red**, it instructs the driver to **get ready to move** and if shone **after green**, it means slow down and **get ready to stop**.



## Green light

Green light means you are allowed to **proceed, if safe**.

However, one must always be cautious and ready to stop, if the situation demands so.



## Red arrow light

Red arrow means the traffic proceeding in the direction of the red arrow must stop.



## Green arrow light

Green arrow means the traffic intending to go in the direction of the green arrow is allowed to proceed.

