

Awareness Series 8: Drive safe, Delhi: Know your traffic Rules!!

(A CSR initiative)



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The Delhi Traffic Police and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways enforce strict traffic rules under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, amended in 2019, with updated fines effective from March 1, 2025.

I. Road Safety and Enforcement.

- a. **AI Surveillance:** Delhi uses AI-enabled cameras to monitor violations, improving detection of overspeeding, signal jumping, and helmetless riding.

- b. **GRAP Stage IV Restrictions:**

BS-III petrol and **BS-IV diesel vehicles** are banned in Delhi under Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to combat pollution.

Diesel medium goods vehicles (BS-III or older) are restricted unless carrying essential goods. Non-essential diesel light commercial vehicles from outside Delhi are also prohibited.

Inter-state buses from NCR states must meet **BS-VI diesel norms**, except for All-India Tourist Permit buses.

Penalty: ₹10,000 fine and possible vehicle seizure.

- c. **Accident Statistics:** In 2021, Delhi recorded 4,720 traffic incidents, resulting in 1,239 fatalities. A 4.7% decrease in fatal accidents was noted in 2023 compared to 2022, reflecting stricter enforcement.

- d. **Good Samaritan Law:** Bystanders assisting accident victims are protected from legal harassment, but failing to help or inform police can incur a ₹10,000 fine.

II. Key Traffic Rules in Delhi:

1. Mandatory Documentation

- Always carry a valid **driving license, vehicle registration certificate (RC), Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate, and third-party insurance policy.**
- Soft copies of these documents are acceptable via the **DigiLocker app.**
- **Penalty for non-compliance:** ₹5,000 fine for driving without a license; ₹2,000–₹10,000 for missing other documents, depending on the violation.

2. Seatbelt and Helmet Usage

- **Four-wheelers:** Drivers and passengers must wear seatbelts at all times to prevent injuries during accidents.
- **Two-wheelers:** Both the rider and pillion must wear ISI-marked helmets.
- **Penalty:** ₹1,000 fine for not wearing a seatbelt or helmet; helmet violations may also lead to a 3-month driving license suspension.

3. Speed Limits

- Adhere to speed limits, which vary by vehicle type and road:
 - **M1 category vehicles** (e.g., cars, taxis): 60–70 kmph.
 - **Two-wheelers and commercial vehicles:** Specific limits are posted on road signs.
 - **Penalty for overspeeding:**
 - Light motor vehicles: ₹2,000 (first offense).
 - Medium/heavy vehicles: ₹4,000 (first offense).
 - License impoundment and community service for repeat offenses.

4. No Drunk Driving

- The permissible blood alcohol limit is **30 mg per 100 ml of blood (0.03%).**
- **Penalty:**

- A fine of Rs. 10,000, with potential for imprisonment, court summons, and community service. Final amount is subject to the discretion of Hon'ble court
- Vehicles may be impounded.

5. Mobile Phone Usage

- Using a mobile phone while driving is prohibited, except as a navigational tool.
- **Penalty:** A fine of Rs. 5,000 for the first offense and Rs 10000 for repeat offenses.

6. Traffic Signals and Lane Discipline

- Stop completely at red lights and follow yellow lights as a signal to slow down.
- Maintain lane discipline; avoid zig-zag driving or improper lane changes.
- **Penalty for signal jumping Rs 1000 or dangerous driving** ₹5,000 fine, license seizure, and/or 6 months to 1 year imprisonment for first offenses.

7. Two-Wheeler Specific Rules

- No more than two people (including the rider) are allowed on a two-wheeler.
- Avoid riding in slippers, sandals, or flip-flops; proper footwear is mandatory.
- **Penalty:** ₹1,000 for overloading or improper footwear; ₹1,000 and 3-month license suspension for not wearing a helmet.

8. No-Parking Zones

- Parking in designated no-parking zones is prohibited and may result in towing.
- **Penalty:** ₹1,000 fine plus towing charges.

9. Environmental Regulations

- Vehicles must comply with emission norms and carry a valid PUC certificate.
- BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel vehicles are banned under GRAP Stage IV (pollution control measures).

- Diesel vehicles over 10 years old and petrol vehicles over 15 years old are prohibited.
- **Penalty for PUC violations:** ₹10,000 fine; vehicle seizure for non-compliant vehicles.

10. Other Key Rules on silence Zones

- Avoid honking in silent zones (e.g., near hospitals): ₹1,000–₹2,000 fine.
- Do not drive on the wrong side of the road or overtake unlawfully: ₹5,000 fine and license suspension.
- Bystanders failing to assist accident victims or inform police may face a ₹10,000 fine.
- There is zero tolerance for causing such public nuisance. Such sensitivity should come naturally

Specific Silence Zones in Delhi

While comprehensive, up-to-date lists of all silence zones in Delhi are not always publicly detailed, some specific locations have been identified as silence zones that include roads around hospitals, educational institutions, residential neighbourhoods and libraries:

Hospitals:

Lok Nayak Hospital, Jawaharlal Nehru Road

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

Safdarjung Hospital

Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology (NSIT), Dwarka

Mandir Marg area (specific hospitals not named but included in studies)

Educational Institutions:

Areas around schools and colleges, such as Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology (NSIT), Dwarka and other institutions

Courts:

Areas around courts, though specific courts like the Delhi High Court are not always explicitly listed as silence zones in Delhi but are implied under the 100-meter rule.

Roads and Intersections:

Sri Aurobindo Marg crossing

Pusa Road crossing

Bhagwan Dass Road (from Mathura Road to Tilak Marg crossing)

Restricted Vehicles on Specific Roads:

Certain roads, like the Dwarka Expressway tunnel, prohibit two- and three-wheelers, tankers, tractors, and slow vehicles during specific hours (e.g., 12 pm–3 pm)

In 2018, the Delhi Traffic Police, in collaboration with the state government's environment department, identified 52 additional silence zones, bringing the total to 155 (from an earlier 103). These include areas around hospitals, schools, residential neighborhoods, and libraries, with a ₹100 fine for honking violations, now increased to ₹2000.

Key Points

Noise Violations: Studies, such as one conducted in 2015 by the National Physical Laboratory, Delhi Technological University, and CPCB, found that noise levels in Delhi's silence zones often exceed permissible limits, reaching up to 77 dB during the day and 75 dB at night, primarily due to traffic.

Enforcement: The Delhi Traffic Police enforce no-honking rules and conduct awareness campaigns. The DPCC monitors noise levels, but compliance remains a challenge, especially near major hospitals where external noise levels are high. But to meet this challenge, AI has come into force and soon challans for honking in silence Zones will start pouring in.

Proposed Measures: Researchers have suggested expanding noise monitoring networks, installing noise barriers, enforcing speed limits, and creating no-honking zones to mitigate noise pollution not to forget AI.

III. Traffic Fines and Penalties (Updated March 2025)

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, effective in Delhi since September 1, 2019, introduced steeper fines to deter violations. Below is a list of common offenses and their penalties:

Violation	Fine/Penalty
Driving without a license	₹5,000
Drunk driving (first offense)	₹10,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment
Drunk driving (second offense)	₹15,000 and/or 2 years imprisonment
Over speeding (light vehicles)	₹1,000–₹2,000 (first offense); ₹2,000–₹4,000 (medium/heavy vehicles)
Not wearing seatbelt/helmet	₹1,000; helmet violation may include 3-month license suspension
Using mobile phone while driving	₹5,000 for the first offense and Rs 10000 for repeat offenses; up to 1-year imprisonment for serious cases
Jumping red light/dangerous driving	₹5,000, license seizure, and/or 6 months–1 year imprisonment
No valid PUC certificate	₹10,000; vehicle seizure for non-compliant vehicles
Driving without a valid registration certificate (RC)	₹ 5,000 for the first offense and ₹ 10000 for repeat
Driving without a valid vehicle insurance	₹ 2,000 to ₹ 4,000
Parking in no-parking zone	₹1,000 + towing charges
Overloading two-wheeler (triple riding)	₹1,000
Driving in slippers (two-wheeler)	₹1,000
Honking in silent zones	₹1,000–₹2,000
Not giving way to emergency vehicles	Fines of up to ₹10,000

Violation	Fine/Penalty
Driving in NMV lanes/No entry/One-way roads	A fine of ₹ 20,000
Disobeying traffic signals	A fine of ₹ 500 to ₹ 1,500
Not using Seat-belt	A fine of ₹1000
Misbehaviour with Police Officer	A fine of ₹ 2000
Unauthorized Use of Siren	A fine of ₹ 500 to ₹ 1,500
Wrong side driving	₹ 500 to ₹ 1000
Without High Security Registration Plate (H.S.RP):	₹500 to ₹ 1000
Run away from the spot	₹ 500 to ₹ 1000
Plying without Annual Road Fitness Certificate	₹ 1000 to ₹ 2000

IV. E-Challan System in Delhi:

A. What is it?

The e-Challan system is a digital ticketing mechanism using CCTV cameras and AI surveillance to detect violations like overspeeding, signal jumping, and helmetless riding. It reduces paperwork and enhances enforcement efficiency.

B. How it works:

- i. Cameras capture violations via vehicle plate numbers or facial recognition.
- ii. Violators receive an SMS notification with the offense details and fine amount.
- iii. Data is matched with the Delhi Traffic Police database for accuracy.

C. Paying an e-Challan:

Online:

- Visit the Parivahan Sewa website (parivahan.gov.in).
- Navigate to “Online Services” > “e-Challan” > “Get Challan Details.”
- Enter your challan number, vehicle number, or driving license details.
- Pay via internet banking, mobile wallets, or UPI.

Offline:

- Visit a Delhi Traffic Police station or designated payment center.
- Provide challan or vehicle registration details.
- Pay in cash or other accepted methods and collect a receipt.

D. Discounts:

Some challans can be settled at 50% of the fine if paid promptly, reducing administrative burden.

E. Consequences of non-payment:

Ignoring an e-Challan may lead to a court summons, additional penalties, or legal action.

V. Tips to Avoid Violations

1. Follow Traffic Signals: Stop at red lights, slow down at yellow, and obey road signs.
2. Ensure that you are not feeling sleepy or giddy.
3. Check the vehicle's engine oil, brake oil, battery/ radiator water, brakes, indicators, horn, lights, wipers & tyres
4. Always overtake from right.
5. Negotiate intersections at minimum possible speed
6. Children below 12 years of age should be seated on the rear seat
7. Keep safe distance from other vehicles.
8. Be extra alert when you see a child/animal
9. Don't drive in a zigzag manner
10. Drive in proper lane and change lane by giving proper indications
11. Use the rear view mirror frequently.
12. In foggy conditions drive with dipped lights & blinkers on.

13. Don't halt in the right lane at intersections if going straight and in middle lane while turning right.
14. Don't block the view for others by stopping the vehicle at the corners of an intersection.
15. Carry Documents: Ensure all vehicle and driver-related documents are valid and accessible (physical or digital).
16. Maintain Vehicle Compliance: Keep your vehicle's PUC certificate updated and ensure it meets emission norms.
17. Avoid Distractions: Refrain from using mobile phones except for navigation.
18. Drive Sober: Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
19. Respect Lane Discipline: Avoid reckless driving, zig-zag riding, or improper overtaking.
20. Park Responsibly: Use designated parking areas to avoid towing and fines.
21. Wear helmets (two-wheelers) and seatbelts (four-wheelers) at all times.
22. Don't be a part of Road Rage. Exercise patience and be considerate towards other road users.
23. Don't give alms to beggars at intersection
24. Check for Challans: Regularly visit traffic.delhipolice.gov.in to check for pending e-Challans and settle them promptly.

VI. Why Compliance Matters- lets act responsible!

- a. **Safety:** Adhering to traffic rules reduces accidents, with Delhi's 2021 data showing 17 deaths per hour nationwide due to road crashes.
- b. **Financial Protection:** Traffic violations can void insurance claims, especially for accidents caused by speeding, signal jumping, or drunk driving. Comprehensive car insurance may not cover fines, but it protects against accident-related damages.
- c. **Legal Consequences:** Repeat offenses lead to license suspension, imprisonment, or community service, impacting your driving privileges.

VII. Some cases on road Safety:

1. **Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997)** and its Delhi NCR Application;
Citation: (1997) 6 SCC 241

Context: While primarily a case on workplace sexual harassment, its principles have been extended to ensure safety in public transport in Delhi NCR.

Key Issue: The case established guidelines for protecting women from harassment, which Delhi courts have applied to public transport safety, especially for women commuters.

Judgment: The Supreme Court mandated safe transport environments, leading to Delhi-specific measures like women-only buses and stricter checks on drivers' conduct.

Relevance to Delhi NCR: This case indirectly supports traffic police initiatives like the Women Helpline (1091) and checks on commercial drivers' behavior, ensuring safer commuting for women. Violations like reckless driving by bus drivers can lead to license revocation under Section 19.

2. National Green Tribunal Orders on Vehicle Bans (2014-2018)

Context: The NGT issued multiple orders (e.g., Vardhaman Kaushik v. Union of India, 2014) to curb vehicular pollution in Delhi NCR, impacting traffic regulations.

Key Issue: The NGT addressed the operation of old diesel/petrol vehicles contributing to Delhi's air quality crisis, a major public health concern.

Judgment: The NGT banned diesel vehicles over 10 years and petrol vehicles over 15 years in Delhi NCR, with fines up to ₹50,000 for violations. It also enforced Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) restrictions, such as bans on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel vehicles under Stage IV (₹20,000 fine).

Relevance to Delhi NCR: These orders have led to rigorous vehicle checks at borders like Gurgaon-Delhi and Noida-Delhi, with 2.7 lakh PUC-related challans issued in 2024. They also justify impoundment of non-compliant vehicles under Section 207 of the MV Act.

3. Consumer Education and Research Society v. Union of India (2005);

Citation: (2005) 10 SCC 193

Context: This case addressed public safety in transport, focusing on the need for road safety education and awareness.

Key Issue: The petitioner sought mandatory road safety education to reduce accidents caused by ignorance of traffic rules.

Judgment: The Supreme Court directed state governments, including Delhi, to integrate road safety education in schools and public

campaigns, emphasizing compliance with the Rules of the Road Regulations, 1989.

Relevance to Delhi NCR: This ruling underpins Delhi Traffic Police's school initiatives and campaigns like "Learn Traffic Rules" on their website, aimed at reducing violations like underage driving (fines up to ₹25,000 under Section 180).

VIII. Key Observations and Practical Implications

- a. **Judicial Push for Safety:** These cases collectively highlight the judiciary's role in enforcing traffic laws in Delhi NCR, from banning old vehicles (M.C. Mehta, NGT orders) to penalizing reckless driving (DTC Mazdoor Congress). They emphasize that road safety is a shared responsibility.
- b. **Challenges in Enforcement:** Despite judicial directives, Delhi NCR faces issues like underage driving, often encouraged by parents, and encroachments, as noted in Almitra H. Patel. Courts have stressed stricter enforcement and public awareness to address these.
- c. **Penalties and Compliance:** Cases like Sanjay and NGT orders have increased fines (e.g., ₹10,000 for drunk driving, ₹20,000 for GRAP violations) and introduced measures like e-challans and AI surveillance to ensure compliance.
- d. **Public Transport Safety:** Vishaka's principles and DTC cases highlight the need for safe public transport, critical in Delhi NCR with its 1.9 crore population and heavy reliance on DTC buses and autos.
- e. **Data-Driven Approach:** The TRIP Centre at IIT Delhi, referenced in road safety reports, recommends a national crash database, supported by judicial calls for better data to identify risks (Consumer Education case).

IX. Sources for Further Reference

- a. **Delhi Traffic Police Website:** traffic.delhipolice.gov.in for real-time challan details and rules.
- b. **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways:** morth.nic.in for MV Act updates.
- c. **National Green Tribunal:** greentribunal.gov.in for vehicle ban orders.

d. Indian Law Watch: indianlawwatch.com for case law summaries.

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