

RULES OF THE ROAD REGULATIONS 1989



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MESSAGE

Traffic accident is a major health problem all over the world in which annually about 13 lakh lives are lost and 50 million injuries are caused. India is a major contributor to the above precarious situation, though the vehicle population is small compared to that in the rest of the globe. Further, the share of Kerala in the national figures is alarming. Out of 4.16 lakh accidents registered in the country during 2008, as many as 37,263 accidents occurred in Kerala. In these accidents, 3901 persons were killed, 25,605 suffered major injuries, 18,236 minor injuries causing physical disability and lifelong agony.

Therefore, a necessity was realized to set up an entity to coordinate, control and work towards improving road safety. Thus Kerala Road Safety Authority an umbrella body of all stake holding departments, the first statutory body solely for promoting road safety was set up in Kerala in 2007.

The Kerala Road Safety Authority (KRSA) is mandated to advise Government on road safety policies, enforce road safety standards and procedures, and coordinate the functions of all the agencies and Government Departments related

to road safety matters. Since the formation of the KRSA, the number of accidents in the State has declined from 39,917 in 2007 to 35,046 in 2010. Similarly the numbers of injuries have declined from 48,246 to 41,207 during the same period.

However, the Government has adopted a road safety policy in line with the UN General Assembly resolution to bring the accident to Zero level by 2020. The vision can be realized if all concerned persons including public, drivers, pedestrians and passengers cooperate with law enforcing agencies in observing safety rules. At the same time the government has initiated a number of steps to educate all types of road users and improve road infrastructure.

Road safety is the responsibility of everybody and as an educated society we all have to observe certain safety rules, like driving at safe speed , use of seat belt by car drivers, helmets by two-wheeler, etc. There are lots of safety rules, some of which are given in this booklet, the efforts taken by NATPAC in bringing out various road safety publications are praiseworthy.

I am sure that this book would be quite useful to all types of road users, road safety teachers, NGO's, road safety activists etc.

Minister of Transport
Government of Kerala

TITLE

Page
No.

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Short Title and Commencement | 1 |
| Rule 1: Keep Left | 2 |
| Rule 2: Turning to Left and Right | 2 |
| Rule 3: <u>Passing to the Right</u> | 3 |
| Rule 4: <u>Passing to the Left</u> | 3 |
| Rule 5: <u>Overtaking Prohibited in Certain Cases</u> | 4 |
| Rule 6: <u>Overtaking Not to be Obstructed</u> | 4 |
| Rule 7: Caution at Road Junction | 5 |
| Rule 8: <u>Giving Way to Traffic at Road Junction</u> | 5 |
| Rule 9: <u>Fire Service Vehicle and Ambulance to be given Free Passage</u> | 6 |
| Rule 10: <u>Right of Way</u> | 6 |
| Rule 11: Taking 'U' Turn | 7 |
| Rule 12: Signals to be given by Drivers | 7 |
| Rule 13: Direction Indicator | 8 |
| Rule 14: Parking of the Vehicle | 9 |
| Rule 15: Visibility of Lamps and Registration Marks | 10 |
| Rule 16: One Way Traffic | 11 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Rule 17: Driving on Channelised Roads (Lane Traffic) | 11 |
| Rule 18: Stop Sign on Road Surface | 12 |
| Rule 19: Towing | 13 |
| Rule 20: Use of Horns and Silence Zones | 14 |
| Rule 21: Traffic Sign and Traffic Police | 14 |
| Rule 22: Distance from Vehicles In Front | 15 |
| Rule 23: Abrupt Brake | 15 |
| Rule 24: Vehicles to the Uphill to be given Precedence | 16 |
| Rule 25: Obstruction of Driver | 16 |
| Rule 26: Speed to be Restricted | 17 |
| Rule 27: Driving of Tractors and Goods Vehicles | 17 |
| Rule 28: Projection of Loads | 18 |
| Rule 29: Restriction to Carriage of Dangerous Substances | 18 |
| Rule 30: Restrictions on Driving Backwards | 19 |
| Rule 31: Production of Documents | 19 |
| Appendix | 21 |

Introduction

The Rules of the Road Regulations came into force with effect from July 1, 1989. It provides as a basic guide for the drivers of all types of vehicles about the rules which have to be followed while on roads. It provides guidelines for overtaking, traffic signals, towing, speed limits, the necessary documents to be carried while driving and other such road safety related matters.

Short Title and Commencement

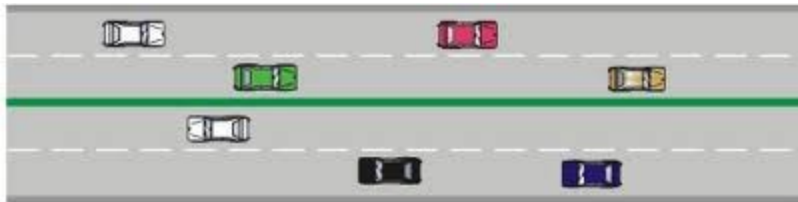
- (a) These regulations may be called the Rules of The Road Regulations, 1989.
- (b) They shall come into force from July 1, 1989.

Rule 1: Keep Left

KEEP LEFT
UNLESS
OVERTAKING



Motor vehicle shall drive the vehicle as close to the left side of the road as is practicable and shall allow all traffic which is proceeding in the opposite direction to pass on his right hand side.



Rule 2: Turning to Left and Right



Motor vehicle shall:

When turning to the left, drive as close as may be to the left hand side of the road from which he is turning and of the road which he is entering.

(b) When turning to the right, draw as near as may be to the centre of the road along which he is travelling and arrive as may be at the left hand side of the road which the driver is entering.



Rule 3: Passing to the Right

As provided in regulation 5, the driver of a motor vehicle shall pass to the right of all traffic proceeding in the same direction as himself.

Rule 4: Passing to the Left

The driver of a motor vehicle may pass to the left of a vehicle, the driver of which having indicated an intention to turn to the right has drawn to the centre of the road and may pass on either side, a tram car or other vehicle running on fixed rails whether traveling in the same direction as himself or otherwise provided that in no case shall he pass a tram car at a time or in a manner likely to cause danger or inconvenience to other users of the road including persons leaving or about to enter tram cars.

Rule 5: Overtaking Prohibited in Certain Cases



motor vehicle shall not pass a vehicle traveling in the same direction as himself:

passing is likely to cause inconvenience or danger to other traffic proceeding in any direction;

is near a point, a bend or corner or a hill or other obstruction of any kind that renders the road
not clearly visible;

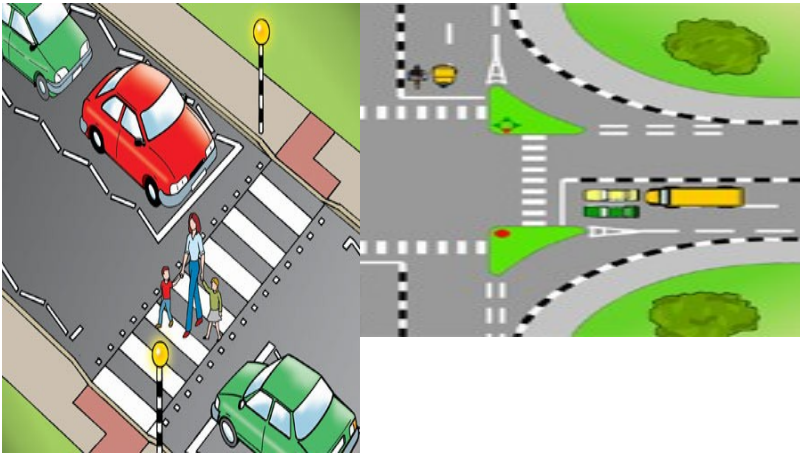
- (c) if he knows that the driver who is following him has begun to overtake him;
- (d) if the driver ahead of him has not signaled that he may be overtaken.

Rule 6: Overtaking Not to be Obstructed



motor vehicle shall not, when being overtaken or being passed by another vehicle, increase
ing in any way to prevent the other vehicle from passing him.

Rule 7: Caution at Road Junction



n, when approaching a road intersection, a road junction, enter any such intersection, junction or crossing until he has ing the safety of persons thereon.

Rule 8: Giving Way to Traffic at Road Junction



otor vehicle shall, on entering a road intersection at which traffic is not being regulated, if the main road designated as such, give way to the vehicles proceeding along the road, and in any ay to all traffic approaching to the intersection on his right hand.



Rule 9: Fire Service Vehicles and Ambulances to be given Free Passage

On the approach of a fire service vehicle or of an ambulance allow it free passage by drawing to the side of the road.

Rule 10: Right of Way

Pedestrians have the right of way at uncontrolled pedestrian crossings. When any road is provided with a footpath or cycle track specially for other traffic, except with permission of a police officer in uniform, a driver shall not drive on such footpath or track.



Rule 11: Taking 'U' Turn



Do not take a 'U' turn where 'U' turn is especially prohibited and on a busy traffic road. If a 'U' turn is allowed, the driver shall slow signal by hand as for a right turn, watch in the rear view mirror and turn when safe.

Rule 12: Signals to be given by Drivers

The following signals shall be used by the drivers of all motor vehicles namely:-



When about to slow down, a driver shall extend his right arm with the palm downward and to the right of the vehicle and shall move the arm so extended up and down several times in such a manner that the signal can be seen by the driver of any vehicle which may be behind him.



When about to stop, the driver shall raise his right forearm vertically outside of and to the right of the vehicle, palm to the right.



When about to turn to the right or to drive to the right hand side of the road in order to pass another vehicle or for any other purpose, a driver shall extend his right hand in a horizontal position outside of and to the right of his vehicle with the palm of the hand turned to the front.



When about to turn to the left or to drive to the left to the left hand side of the road a driver shall extend his right arm and rotate it in an anticlockwise direction.



When a driver wishes to indicate to a driver of a vehicle behind him that he desires to that driver to overtake him he shall extend his right hand and arm horizontally outside of and to the right of the vehicle and shall bring the arm backward and forward in a semi- circular motion.

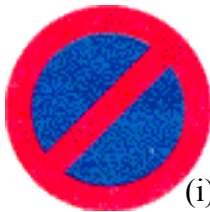
Rule 13: Direction Indicator

The signals referred to in regulation 12, may be simplified also by mechanical or electrical devices.

Rule 14: Parking of the Vehicle



vehicle parking on any road shall park in such a way that it does not cause or is not
r, obstruction or undue in convenience to other road users and if the manner of
y any sign board or makings on the road side, he shall park the vehicle in such a



er of a motor vehicle shall not park his vehicles:-

- (i) at or near a road crossing, a bend, top of a hill or a humpbacked bridge;
- (ii) on a footpath;
- (iii) near a traffic light or pedestrian crossing;
- (iv) in a main road or one carrying fast vehicle;
- (v) opposite another parked vehicle or as obstruction to other vehicle;
- (vi) alongside another parked vehicle;
- (vii) on roads or at places where there is a continuous white line with or without a broken line;

- (viii) near a bus stop, school or hospital entrance or blocking a traffic sign or entrance to a premises or a fire hydrant;
- (ix) on the wrong side of the road;
- (x) where parking is prohibited;
- (xi) away from the edge of the footpath.

Rule 15: Visibility of Lamps and Regulation Marks

- (a) No load or other goods shall be placed on any motor vehicle so as to mark or otherwise interrupt vision of any lamp, registration mark or any other mark required to be carried by or exhibited on any motor vehicle by or under the Act, unless a duplicate of the lamp so marked or otherwise obscured is exhibited in the manner required by or under the Act for the exhibition of the marked or obscured lamp or mark.
- (b) All registration and other marks required to be exhibited on a motor vehicle by or under the Act shall at all times be maintained in a clear and legible condition.

Rule 16: One Way Traffic



st

motor vehicle on road declared 'One-Way' except in the direction specified by sign boards;

- (ii) drive a vehicle in a reverse direction into a road designated 'One Way'.



Rule 17: Driving on Channelized Roads (Lane Traffic)

marked by lanes for movement of traffic, the driver of a motor vehicle shall drive within the lane only after giving proper signal.



marked by a yellow line dividing road, vehicles proceeding in the same direction trying to overtake other shall not cross the yellow line.

Rule 18: Stop Sign on Road Surface



l on or inlaid into the surface of any road at the approach to the road junction or to a r otherwise, no driver shall drive a motor vehicle so that any part thereof projects y time when a signal to stop is being given by a Police Officer or by means of traffic play of any traffic sign.

- (b) A line for the purpose of this regulation shall not be less than 50 millimeters in width at any part and may be either in white, black or yellow.

Rule 19: Towing



ally disabled motor vehicle or incompletely assembled motor vehicle, a , shall be drawn or towed by any motor vehicle, except for purposes of 1g station or garage.

or towed by any other motor vehicle unless there is in the driver's seat of the motor vehicle being drawn or towed a person holding a licence authorizing him to drive the vehicle or unless the steering wheels of the motor vehicle being towed, are firmly and securely supported clear of the road surface by some crane or other device on the vehicle which is draw in or towing it.

- (c) When a motor vehicle is being towed by another motor vehicle the clear distance between the rear of the front vehicle and the front of the rear vehicle shall at no time exceed five metres. The tow ropes, or chains shall be of a type-easily distinguishable by other road users and there shall be clearly displayed on the rear of the vehicle being towed in black letters not less than seventy-five millimeters high and on a white background the words 'ON TOW'.
- (d) No motor vehicle when towing another vehicle other than a trailer or a sidecar shall be driven at a speed exceeding twenty-four kilometers per hour.

Rule 20: Use of Horns and Silence Zones

A driver of a vehicle shall not:



and the horn needlessly or continuously or more than necessary to ensure safety;

and the horn in silence zones;

take-use of a cut-out by which gases are released other than through the silencer;



or use any multi-toned horn giving a harsh, shrill, loud or alarming noise;

drive a vehicle creating undue noise when in motion;

(v) drive a vehicle with a muffler causing alarming sound;

Rule 21: Traffic Signs and Traffic Police



motor vehicle and every other person using the road shall obey:-

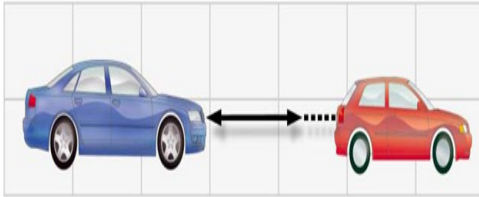


(a) direction given, whether by signal or otherwise, by a police officer or any authorized person for time being in charge of the regulations of traffic;

(b) direction applicable to him and indicated on or by notice, traffic sign or signal fixed or operated by an authority, competent to do so;

(c) any direction indicated by automatic signaling devices fixed at road intersections.

Rule 22: Distance from Vehicle in Front

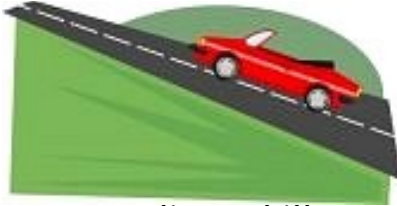


: moving behind another vehicle shall keep at a sufficient distance from that other
e vehicle in front should suddenly slow down or stop.

Rule 23: Abrupt Brake

No driver of a vehicle shall apply brake abruptly unless it is necessary to do so for safety reasons.

Rule 24: Vehicles To The Uphill To Be Given Precedence



proceeding uphill to pass.

steep roads, the driver of a motor vehicle travelling down the hill shall give precedence
ill wherever the road is not sufficiently wide to allow the vehicles to pass each other
and stop the stop the vehicle to the side of the road in order to allow any vehicle

Rule 25: Obstruction of Driver

A driver of a motor vehicle shall not allow any person to stand or sit or anything to be placed in such a manner or
position as to hamper his control of the vehicle.

Rule 26: Speed To Be Restricted

When passing a meeting or procession or a body of troops or police on the road or on road repair, drive at a speed not exceeding 25 kilometers an hour.



Rule 27: Driving of Tractors and Goods Vehicles



When driving a tractor shall not carry or allow any person to be carried on the tractor. A driver of a goods vehicle shall not carry in the driver's cabin more numbers of persons than that mentioned in the registration. A tractor shall not carry passengers for hire or reward.

Rule 28: Projection of Loads



in any public place any motor vehicle which is loaded in a manner likely to cause danger to
manner that the load or any part there of or anything extends laterally beyond the side of the
to rear or in height beyond the permissible limit.

Rule 29: Restriction to Carriage of Dangerous Substances



the lubricants necessary for the use of the vehicle, no explosive, highly inflammable or
substances shall be otherwise carried on any public service vehicle.

Be

Cautious



Rule 30: Restrictions on Driving Backwards

use the vehicle to be driven backwards without first satisfying himself that he
be inconvenience to any other person or in any circumstances, for any greater
reasonably necessary in order to turn the vehicle round.

Rule 31: Production of Document

A person driving a vehicle-

- (i) shall always carry with him his driving licence; certificate of registration; certificate of taxation and certificate of insurance of the vehicle and in case of transport vehicle the permit and fitness certificate also;
- (ii) shall on demand by police officer in uniform or an officer of the Motor Vehicle Department in uniform or any other officer authorized by the Government, produce the documents for inspection.

Provided that where any or all of the documents are not in his possession, he shall produce in person an extract or extracts of the documents duly attested by any police officer or by any other officer or send it to the officer who demanded the documents, by registered post, within 15 days of the demand.

Every driver must be conversant with the provisions of Sections 112, 113, 121, 122, 125, 132, 134, 185, 186, 194, 207 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988.

