Wrong Driving Habits on Indian Roads

- Several Wrong Driving Habits have developed
  - Unknowingly or Knowingly
  - Misunderstood or Totally ignorant
- The absolute lack of awareness of the risks associated with their particular (wrong habits) driving habits
- These wrong habits seem to be the major cause of road accidents
- Hence, we call them as “man made disasters”.

Incorrect use of safety device

- Safety device - “Emergency/Hazard Warning Switch”
  - Under the provision of Rule 103 (2) (CMVR) 1989, four wheelers are equipped with a safety device called “emergency/hazard warning switch”
  - Uneducated drivers do not know the actual purpose of this device and misuse this device while overtaking

- Conclusion
  - An abuse of an important safety device
  - Causes serious confusion to other road users

Wrong Driving Habits - Lack of Understanding of Road Markings
Lack of Understanding of Road Markings

- Lifeline of driver

Wrong Driving Habits - Lack of Understanding of Road Markings

- The Rules of the Road Regulation 1989 does not allow vehicles, proceeding in the same direction trying to overtake each other to cross the yellow-line
  - It has been continuously ignored and violated by most road users, and has become the most prominent cause of head-on collisions while overtaking
- When the roads are marked with lane lines
  - Drivers do not know to drive on driving lane (left)
  - Right side lane is only for overtaking
  - As soon as overtaking is over, come to left lane again

Wrong Driving Habits – Deliberate use of manual overtaking signal to harm others

- When the driver of a vehicle wishes to allow the driver of the vehicle behind him to overtake
  - The driver has to extend his arm and hand outside the vehicle and to swing backward and forward in a semi-circular motion
  - This is the only prescribed process in the Rule of the road Regulation
- But sometimes driver mischievously or deliberately gives a manual signal even when he knows that it is not safe for the vehicle behind him to overtake
  - Police vehicles are generally the victim of such deliberate mischief

Conclusion
- Is there any alternate to such manual signal?
- What is the reliability of manual signal given by the driver?
Confusion Due to Misuse of Side Indicators

Wrong Driving Habits – Confusion Due to Misuse of Side Indicators

- The Rules of the Road Regulation 1989 Rule 13 (e) prescribes manual method of giving signal by right arm and hand in case of overtaking
- Nowadays one innovative idea of using the flashing right side indicator (turn signal switch) has been adopted for giving indication to the following vehicle to overtake (allow)
  - This is very confusing
- Right side indicator could also mean that
  - the driver of the vehicle intends to turn to right.
- Conclusion
  - There should be only one meaning for the side indicator
  - The intention to turn right or left
  - There is no provision in the M V Act 1988 to prohibit the misuse of the direction indicator.

Wide-angle turns for articulated trailers and truck-trailer vehicles

- There are no separate rules or regulations in M V Act or CMVR for Articulated trailer or tractor/trailers
  - Especially for when such lengthy vehicles move on road and when they negotiate turns
- Problems for articulated trailers during turning
  - When articulated vehicle negotiates a turn, the puller (Horse) easily moves ahead but the trailing portion of the unit does not move on the same track as that taken by the puller, but the trailer moves on different track or profile which has a larger radius creating a hazardous situation on road

Wide-angle turns for articulated trailers and truck-trailer vehicles

- Left Turn
  - Right Turn
Wide-angle turns for articulated trailers and truck-trailer vehicles

- Developed countries use signs on the back of the tractor/trailer
- Conclusion
  - New rules should be added to the CMVR to exemplify the special considerations needed by articulated trailers for making wide-angle turns
  - This will help increase the awareness in other road users about such maneuvers

Incorrect Method of Slowing Down/Stopping the Vehicle

- Many developed countries have prohibited “unmuffled engine braking” in most cases, and is only allowed in emergency situations
- Conclusion
  - Provisions should be made in the Rules of the Road Regulation 1989 to make it compulsory to apply brakes (brake lights) when slowing down or stopping

Diseases & Medicines – How it Adversely Affects Driving?

- In the old Motor Vehicles Act 1939, disease and disabilities specified in the Second Schedule, prohibited and disqualified a person from obtaining a driving license
- But in the new Motor Vehicles Act 1988, there is no such schedule or notification
Diseases & Medicines – How it Adversely Affects Driving?

• Diseases and its significant effect
  – Heart disease
  – Diabetes
  – Alzheimer’s disease
  – Parkinson’s
  – Night blindness (Nyctalopia)
  – Epilepsy

• Medicines and Driving
  – Medicine itself becomes a hindrance for driving
  – It makes driving difficult and unsafe
  – The common man in India is ignorant of this fact
  – These medicines are used extensively in common ailments, like cold, cough, anxiety, allergies, headache, flu, insomnia etc
    • The side effects are drowsiness, lack of concentration, dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting, unable to think clearly, have blurred or double vision, etc.
  – Common man is totally ignorant of the facts.

Warning on Medicine wrapper in developed countries

Diseases & Medicines – How it Adversely Affects Driving?

• Medicines and Driving
  – Under the prevailing laws in our country, the Government has not made any mandatory provision to convey messages of warning against the driving of a vehicle after consumption of certain prescribed medicines
  – The combined effect of consuming drugs/medicines and alcohol poses a potential hazard in driving

Warning on Medicine wrapper in developed countries

Diseases & Medicines – How it Adversely Affects Driving?

• Medicines and Driving
  – In our country there is not any statutory provision anywhere to display written caution on medicine wrappers/boxes, regarding the consumption and hazards of the particular medicine, and combining medicine and alcohol, and how this may adversely affect driving abilities.
Warning on Medicine wrapper in developed countries

- Medicines and Driving
  - Conclusion
    - Unfortunately no provision is made in the Motor Vehicles Act 1988, for safety of blind people on Indian roads.
    - There is no provision of cautionary sign in the M V Act1988, for safety of blind people on Indian roads.
    - The developed countries use several road signs for the safety of blind people.

Are Blind People Safe on Indian Roads?

- There are around 15 million people in India who suffer from blindness.
- Blind people are generally recognized by the “white cane” or “red/white striped stick”.
  - It is used as a symbol to alert others to the fact that an individual is blind person.
- Majority of the drivers in India are illiterate, and do not know the significance of the “white cane” (a symbol for blind people).
- There is no provision of cautionary sign in the M V Act1988, for safety of blind people on Indian roads.
- The developed countries use several road signs for the safety of blind people.

- Conclusion
  - A symbol for blind people safety on the road.
  - The road signs should be included in our Motor Vehicle Act 1988.