

LEARNING TO DRIVE

- Any person learning to drive a motor vehicle is required to obtain a learner's license.
- The law requires that he should display on the front and the rear of vehicle a square shaped white plate or card which should 17" (17 cms) x 7" (17 cms). On this plate must be written the letter 'L' in RED colour. The lettering should be 4" (10 cms) in height and 3.5" (8.5 cms) in width
- He must carry his learner's license at the time of driving.
- A learner's license issued is valid for a period of six months and there is no grace period.
- A learner's license is valid only in the State where it is issued.
- The minimum age at which a learner's license can be issued is 18 years.

DRIVER WITH LEARNER'S LICENCE FOR CAR

A car driver (learner's license holder) must have by his side a person duly licensed to drive a vehicle. He should sit by his side in such a position as to be able to readily stop the vehicle

FOR PERMANENT LICENCE HOLDERS

- A permanent license is valid for the type of vehicle for which it is issued.
- After its expiry, there is a grace period of 30 days within which to get it renewed.
- The minimum age for applying for a permanent license is 18 years. For paid drivers, it is 20 years. A paid driver must carry his driving license at the time of driving.

A permanent license is valid throughout in India.

BEFORE DRIVING MAKE SURE THAT

- Your vehicle is registered.
- Registration number is displayed prominently in front and rear in the prescribed manner.
- It is insured to cover liability in respect of any third party risk.
- The vehicle is in roadworthy condition. A vehicle which is not roadworthy is a risk to your own life and of others
- You are not under the influence of drinks/drugs to such an extent that you are unable to control the vehicle properly.
- You have a valid driving license for the type of vehicle you are driving.
- You are physically and mentally fit to drive.

UNDER THE LAW YOUR CAR MUST

- Be registered.
- Have headlight, backlight for illuminating the number plate. Lighting time starts half an hour after sunset and continues until half an hour before sunrise. Have brakes of sufficient strength
- Have tyres properly inflated and in good and sound condition.
- Have the horn in working order
- Have its steering mechanism adequately maintained and in good trim. Be equipped with electrical or mechanical device.

Stopped by the Traffic Police ?

A traffic policeman in uniform has the right to demand your driver's license and inspect your vehicle documents. He may impound your license if he should so judge it necessary. If a traffic policeman gives you instructions on the road, it is your duty to obey them regardless of what the electronic traffic signals say. When a traffic policeman is stationed at a signal/crossing, he is the final authority. If you cannot find your vehicle, it is likely that it may have been towed rather than stolen. Ask around, local shopkeepers are normally informed about local traffic stations where impounded vehicles are kept.

What action a Policeman may take?

He may note down the particulars of your license which will later be forwarded to a court. The court will then issue instructions regarding what course of action is to be taken - a certain amount as fine. If you plead guilty and send the requisite amount, the case will be filed, else summons will be sent to you and the case will be judged on merit. He may impend your Drivers' License and issue a temporary license (which lasts only for a stipulated period). You may compound the offence by paying a fine at the police station under whose jurisdiction the license was impounded.

Else you will be provided a summons from court, if you fail to appear in court, an arrest warrant may be issued. If the policeman is an officer of rank sub-inspector or above, you may compound the office on the spot by paying a fine. The relevant receipts will be provided to you.

Some important offences:

- Not carrying valid license while driving without a license.
- Allowing a vehicle to be driven by someone who does not have a license.
- Driving without insurance permit / fitness
- Speeding / reckless driving
- Driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Lane-cutting / dangerous lane-cutting
- Moving against a One-way.
- Stopping at a pedestrian crossing / crossing a stop line.
- Improper use of headlights.
- Using a private vehicle for commercial purposes.
- Carrying goods in a dangerous manner.
- Taxi Drivers refusing to ply / charging extra / not wearing uniform.
- Jumping traffic signal lights.