



The **Motor Vehicles Act (MV Act)** of 1988, along with its subsequent amendments, governs the regulation of road transport and traffic offenses in India. It lays down the legal framework for ensuring road safety, vehicle registration, and traffic regulation, and prescribes penalties for violations. Some of the notable traffic offenses covered under the MV Act are:

1. Driving Without a License

- **Offense:** Operating a vehicle without a valid driving license.
- **Penalty:** ₹5,000 fine for driving without a valid license (increased after the 2019 amendment).

2. Drunk Driving

- **Offense:** Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs beyond the permissible limit.
- **Penalty:**
 - First offense: Fine up to ₹10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 6 months.
 - Repeat offense: Fine up to ₹15,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 2 years.



- **Permissible Blood Alcohol Content (BAC):** The legal BAC limit in India is 0.03% (30 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood).

3. Over-speeding

- **Offense:** Exceeding the prescribed speed limit for different types of vehicles and roads.
- **Penalty:**
 - Light motor vehicles: ₹1,000 – ₹2,000 fine.
 - Medium/heavy motor vehicles: ₹2,000 – ₹4,000 fine.
 - Repeat offense: Suspension of driving license for three months.

4. Not Wearing a Helmet

- **Offense:** Riding a two-wheeler without wearing a helmet.
- **Penalty:** ₹1,000 fine and suspension of driving license for three months.
- **Legal Requirement:** Helmets are mandatory for both riders and pillion passengers (with exceptions in some states for religious reasons).



5. Not Wearing a Seat Belt

- **Offense:** Not wearing a seat belt while driving or sitting in the front seat of a vehicle.
- **Penalty:** ₹1,000 fine for both driver and front-seat passengers.

6. Using Mobile Phones While Driving

- **Offense:** Talking on the phone or using a mobile device while driving.
- **Penalty:** ₹5,000 fine for the first offense and a fine up to ₹10,000 for subsequent offenses.
- **Exceptions:** Usage of hands-free devices is allowed under some circumstances.

7. Dangerous or Reckless Driving

- **Offense:** Driving in a manner that endangers life or property, including behaviors such as excessive speeding, overtaking dangerously, or jumping red lights.
- **Penalty:**
 - First offense: ₹1,000 - ₹5,000 fine and/or imprisonment up to 6



months.

- Repeat offense: ₹10,000 fine and/or imprisonment up to 2 years.
- License suspension for a specified period may also be imposed.

8. Violation of Red Light Signal

- **Offense:** Jumping a red light or failing to stop at a traffic signal.
- **Penalty:** ₹1,000 – ₹5,000 fine, along with possible disqualification from driving for a certain period.

9. Overloading Vehicles

- **Offense:** Carrying more passengers or goods than the vehicle's permitted capacity.
- **Penalty:**
 - For overloading goods vehicles: ₹20,000 fine and ₹2,000 for each extra ton of goods.
 - For overloading passenger vehicles: ₹1,000 per extra passenger.
 - The vehicle's registration may also be suspended.



10. Driving Without Insurance

- **Offense:** Driving a vehicle without valid third-party insurance.
- **Penalty:**
 - First offense: ₹2,000 fine and/or imprisonment up to 3 months.
 - Repeat offense: ₹4,000 fine and/or imprisonment up to 3 months.

11. Hit-and-Run Cases

- **Offense:** Causing an accident and fleeing the scene without providing assistance.
- **Penalty:**
 - Compensation of ₹50,000 for death in a hit-and-run case.
 - ₹25,000 compensation for grievous injury.

12. Overloading and Oversized Vehicles

- **Offense:** Driving vehicles that exceed the permissible height, length, or width or transporting oversized goods.
- **Penalty:** ₹10,000 fine and an additional ₹2,000 for each ton of overloaded goods.



13. Offenses by Juveniles

- **Offense:** Underage driving or allowing minors to operate a motor vehicle.
- **Penalty:**
 - The vehicle owner or guardian may be held responsible with a fine of ₹25,000.
 - Juvenile offenders may also be tried under the **Juvenile Justice Act.**

14. Obstructing Emergency Vehicles

- **Offense:** Not giving way to emergency vehicles like ambulances, fire trucks, or police vehicles.
- **Penalty:** Fine up to ₹10,000 and/or imprisonment up to 6 months.

15. Driving an Unregistered Vehicle

- **Offense:** Driving a vehicle without proper registration.
- **Penalty:** Fine up to ₹5,000 for light motor vehicles and ₹10,000 for heavy motor vehicles.



16. Driving with Expired Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate

- **Offense:** Operating a vehicle without a valid PUC certificate.
- **Penalty:** ₹10,000 fine for the first offense and possible impoundment of the vehicle.

Key Amendments of 2019 (Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019)

The **Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019** brought significant changes to enhance road safety and increase penalties for traffic violations:

- Higher fines for various traffic offenses, including driving without a license, over-speeding, and dangerous driving.
- Introduction of provisions for **Good Samaritans** to protect individuals who help victims of road accidents.
- Increased penalties for violations involving juveniles or commercial vehicles.



- **Electronic Monitoring:** Empowering authorities to use cameras, speed guns, and other technology to monitor traffic violations.

Conclusion

The Motor Vehicles Act plays a vital role in regulating traffic, ensuring road safety, and penalizing violations. The 2019 amendments sought to curb traffic offenses by imposing stricter fines and penalties, emphasizing compliance with road rules, and promoting responsible driving behavior.