

23<sup>rd</sup> Septemeber 2019.



To,  
Shri Devendra Fadanvis,  
Chief Minister Maharashtra,  
Mumbai.

Dear Sir

### **Notification of Compoundable Offences under Section 200 of the Amended Motor Vehicles Act**

Over the last 3 years 38,284 people have been killed and 99,267 seriously injured in road crashes in Maharashtra. We rank 3<sup>rd</sup> amongst all the States for the highest road fatalities. The psychological trauma and economic impact on families whose member has been involved in a crash is tremendous. The State also suffers economic loss, as much as 3% of the GDP, due to road crashes.

Road crashes can be reduced by following a scientific approach which involves better road engineering, adoption of safety features in vehicles and safer road users.

The current debate about fines is related to creating safer road users.

However, fines are only one component of creating safer road users. A combination of better enforcement which increases the chances of being caught and an appropriate fine will help to improve compliance with various traffic rules and regulations. Enforcement works best when it is visible (people see others being caught by law enforcement agencies for traffic rule violations), consistent, and continuous.

The Motor Vehicles Act was amended after almost 30 years. Due to this, fines that were set in 1988 had to be rationalized to 2019 prices, thus requiring an almost 5-fold increase in the amounts. However, the sudden jump has led to dissatisfaction amongst people. This situation can certainly be addressed by the State Government by increasing the fines gradually from the current levels (notified in 2016) to the full amounts over the course of a couple of years.

We therefore urge your Government to;

1. Immediately issue a notification u/s 200 of the Motor Vehicles Act for the setting of fines for the various compoundable offences, increasing the fines for those offences which are most relevant to road safety such as the use of helmets, seatbelts and speeding.
2. Gradually increase the fines through subsequent notifications
3. Strengthen enforcement and make it consistent, continuous and visible – and give political support and adequate resources to the enforcement agencies for this to happen
4. Make licencing process robust

All States are already under strict orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court appointed Committee on Road Safety and some actions have already been taken by the Government to address the issue of road safety.

We hope that under your leadership Maharashtra will take bold steps to safeguard the lives of people and significantly reduce the road crash trauma in the State.

Regards,



Ranjit Gadgil,  
Program Director, Parisar

*On behalf of the Road Safety Network*

☎ 8805027186

✉ ranjit@parisar.org

🌐 [www.roadsafetynetwork.in](http://www.roadsafetynetwork.in)

- Cc
- 1) Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, New Delhi.
  - 2) Shri Divakar Raote, Cabinet Minister, Transport and Khar Land Development.
  - 3) Shri Ashish Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Transport and Ports, Home Department.
  - 4) Shri Shekhar Channe, Transport Commissioner, Mumai.
  - 5) DGP, Mumbai, Maharashtra.