

Chapter - 3

ARROGANCE ON ROADS: AGGRESSIVE DRIVING & ROAD RAGE

The behaviour of drivers on roads nowadays is deteriorating alarmingly to a very low level. It has become a very common occurrence on roads. Good road behaviour is something very vital that everybody should pay attention to. The two most commonly observed patterns of behavioral problems among drivers today are aggressive driving and road rage. Let us discuss them in some detail.

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

[I] Definition: It can be defined where an angry or impatient driver behaves or acts aggressively, willfully on some relatively very small traffic issues without any regard to traffic rules and safety of the co-commuters. In simple words, it is an angry reaction or aggressiveness of a driver on the road over some trivial traffic issues. You may have frequently noted two drivers on the road quarrelling over issues like parking, overtaking, etc. Aggressive driving can range from verbal abuse to violence. Some aggressive drivers react vengefully and may cause injuries and damage to other vehicles. It is indeed unfortunate that this kind of behaviour has taken a turn for the worse in recent years. This is not a problem in India alone but a worldwide epidemic. Even in the most developed countries it is on the rise. It has emerged as the most pressing problem for traffic police the world over.

[II] Profile of an Aggressive Driver: Usually in such cases drivers are young males between 18 to 35 years, not very well educated, emotionally disturbed who have no regard for traffic rules or safety on roads and are frequently seen speeding and jumping traffic signals. If you ask their neighbours, office colleagues or relatives, there might be a history of such behaviour in other situations too. However, this profile is not very characteristic as many times people with no past history of such behaviour have been found to behave aggressively on roads. Similarly, there is also no rigid correlation with being poor or rich, educated or uneducated, male or female, young or old in such cases. In fact, everyone has a potential for becoming an aggressive driver. It is probably the magnitude or threshold of the stimulus needed to provoke it, varies from person to person. About

20-25% of people on roads today have a pretty labile emotional level and are easily provoked. These emotionally disturbed drivers who are charged with anger can vent their frustrations against anybody at any time.

[III] What an Aggressive Driver Does on Roads: In general, any activity of other drivers that annoys you or distracts your attention or stresses you comes under this. Some of these activities are:

- Verbal abuses like: 'Andha hai kya?' (Are you blind?), 'Sadak tumhare baap ki hai?' (Is it your father's road?), 'Marna chahta hai kya?' (Want to die?), 'Heavy beema kara rakha hai kya?' (Have you taken a big insurance?), 'Bal bachche nahin hain kya?' (Don't you have kids?), to name a few.
- Rude or inappropriate gestures.
- Stealing somebody else's parking space or pulling into a parking space someone else was waiting for.
- Gate crashing and aggressive tailgating (driving very closely).
- Honking without any reason.
- Deliberately obstructing another vehicle.
- Dangerous overtaking and forcing other drivers or commuters off the road.
- Speeding like a racer or going faster than the recommended speed limit or going too fast for the conditions of the roads there.
- Weaving in and out of traffic.
- Flashing their headlights at the person in front.
- Starting a confrontation, including striking another vehicle with an object.
- In extreme cases, it may include intentionally bumping into another vehicle.
- Throwing objects from a moving vehicle with the intent of damaging other vehicles.

[IV] Causes of Aggressive Driving:

There are two kinds of factors that are responsible for aggressive behaviour. First, preexisting factors that are related to basic personality of the driver [anger, hostility, frustration, etc] that makes him susceptible to aggression. Second, triggering factors that may be some minor traffic disputes that spark off the actual aggression.

1. *Temperament & Mood:* The basic temperament of a person plays a key role in such situations. The reaction after similar traffic dispute may vary from person to person. Some drivers are impulsive and react

quickly and sharply without assessing the situation correctly. We may call it an extravagant reaction to the dispute. While some others are sober and have more guarded reactions in such conditions. I am led to think the basic temperament of a person is not affected much by his educational status, family or social standing.

A person's mood at that particular time is another significant factor that affects his reaction in a given situation. This probably also explains why some people having very good temperament without any previous history sometimes behave very aggressively. Needless to say, a driver who is already emotionally disturbed and in a bad mood is very susceptible to behaving aggressively while driving. The temperament and the mood of the driver in the other vehicle also has a great deal to do with it, as they say it takes "two to tango". It is quite possible that the other one too may be an aggressive person who may not be prepared to tolerate you. So depending on the temperament and mood of the two drivers, there could be several combinations possible. The worst situation arises when both the drivers have hostile temperaments and are in a bad mood on that day.

2. A Dual or Split Personality: We frequently see that people behave differently at home or office and on the road. I may not be wrong if I say that people behave differently with known and unknown people. They may lose their temper very soon with strangers though they may behave differently with friends and colleagues. I don't know the reason for such a disparity. Does it show that man still retains some primitive characters? If yes then which is our real self?

3. Local Culture: Dangerous and aggressive driving in a particular geographical region may reflect a cultural norm. It may be due to a deteriorated or an explosive law and order situation in that particular region. For example, there are some States and particular regions in India where you have to be extra-careful while passing through. It has also been found that in these areas, in addition to aggression on the road, the incidence of crime and accidental death rates is also very high, thereby showing a direct link between aggressive behaviour and a poor law and order situation.

4. Traffic Congestion: It has become a significant triggering factor in India as we are spending more and more time on the roads and are frequently caught up in traffic jams.

5. Minor Collisions causing a Dent or Scratch: Incidents are known where one driver has been killed by another just for causing a small dent in his new vehicle.

6. Personal Problems: Factors like work stress and frustration lead to an aggressive behaviour.

7. *Hurry or Poor Time Management*: e.g. getting late for an appointment causes an undue haste.

8. *When in a Group*: Drivers behave crazily or lose their temper easily when they are in a group on roads. This may be due to the fact that they feel more secure when accompanied by others.

9. *Environmental Factors*: When the outside temperatures soar [in Summers] or it is too noisy, the chances of aggressive behaviour increase.

10. *Too Much Pampering at Home*: A pampered person is not used to listen the word NO in his life. Their temper and tantrum is usually tolerated by others at home. So they expect everyone on road to tolerate their highhandedness and give them preferential treatment and when they do not get their own way they become aggressive. Inside the car they still feel as if they are in their home or in a space where whatever they do or say, they are accountable only to the norms or standards what have been set in their homes. They don't realize that they are in a public place where their behaviour should be attuned to the parameters meant for a civilized society in general. This is also the case with India's neo-rich class (nouveau riche), a fast growing section of our society.

11. *Learning by Example or Inheritance*: We can hardly expect good road behaviour from our progeny if we ourselves behave aggressively on roads.

12. *Misunderstandings*: In some cases it has been seen that incidents of road rage are caused by simple misunderstandings between drivers. Actions of one driver may be perceived by another as a personal insult.

13. *Can be Instructive in Response to Careless Driving by the Others*: Sometimes in big cities people are more aware or made aware to follow traffic rules, expect others to behave similarly and if that is not the case they feel it is their right to punish the offenders. For example, people get very annoyed when other drivers jump queues, lanes or signals causing them to miss their chance to cross at a green light and so on. Driving puts people in a situation in which they are forced to take a high degree of interest in the movements and behaviour of strangers and to make sure that others' mistakes do not cost them their lives.

14. *Others Silly Triggers: such as:*

- Disputes over parking space.
- Not letting overtaking.
- Dispute over which car had the right of way first.
- Driving too slowly.

- People get angry on those talking on mobile phones and playing loud music.

Although these appear to be very minor factors, there are several examples of each of the above-mentioned responsible for severe violence on roads.

[VI] What to do about aggressive driving:

The best way to avoid a dispute is to ignore aggressive behaviour by the others. Many of you may not agree with me. Most people feel that is wrong to yield to aggressive behaviour. Of course, when you have done no wrong, you strongly feel like teaching a lesson to such people for their silly behaviour. You may feel that if you don't teach them a lesson, they would repeat the same thing with others on the road. Sometimes a 'handsome hunk' may feel insulted especially when harassed in front of his wife and kids, and feel tempted to pull over to "settle things". They also feel by not accepting a challenge they might be labeled cowards. It is certainly true to some extent. But before forming an opinion, it would be wise to go through the following points [that discuss why it is necessary to avoid it].

1. Think of the Consequences: Always weigh the consequences before taking a tough stand. Remember, a split-second impulsiveness can ruin the rest of your life. If you accept a challenge, it will start a chain reaction, e.g. lodging a complaint with the police or calling up friends to show your muscle power. It is just a matter of chance whose well-wishers reach the scene first and there is sure to be a battle of sorts on the road. You ask influential acquaintances for favours and fight lengthy lawsuits. During all this you lose valuable time, money and suffer serious consequences in your professional life with no real achievement. In some extreme situations if you injure or kill someone in anger, you may end up in jail.

2. Not to Lose Your Peace of Mind: Those who are not used to quarrelling will not easily forget the physical or verbal abuse. On the contrary the notorious elements involved will easily forget the incident the very next moment. Believe me, even the smallest fight in a self-respecting person's life will spoil the whole day and that would be quite evident from his face. Any body at work can guess whether he has had a fight at home or on his way to office. He may be unable to concentrate on work the whole day. If someone slaps or abuses you, especially in front of your close ones, your whole behaviour and psychology may change for long. Even if you beat up the assaulting person to your heart's content, you would not get back your peace of mind completely. So it is advisable to avoid it.

3. *No Courts on the Road:* Except for the two parties involved, there is no one on the road to decide as to who is right or wrong? Initially, there may be few spectators that may know the real situation, but people generally do not like to interfere in such matters nowadays. There only remains a group of curious people who simply enjoy the "Tamasha". So, there is no point in arguing the matter for a long time on the spot.

4. *Don't Waste Your Time:* These days everybody is short of time, so why waste such a valuable commodity on the road for a false notion of prestige.

5. *Don't Fight with Strangers: Why?*

There are two reasons for it.

[a] If you are a very senior, reputed, person and you indulge in a fight with a known person, you might get the benefit of your background. But with an unknown person at a place where no one is there to help, your background may not help.

[b] As you do not know the background of the other commuters, you may underestimate his nuisance value. I would like to narrate a real incident that occurred with my friend who was coming from Delhi to Agra by car. At one place he had to apply the brakes suddenly to save a pedestrian causing a car behind his to collide with the rear of his car. Seeing a significant damage, my friend started arguing with the driver of the other vehicle. Though he offered to pay for the damages, my friend was not satisfied probably wanting to teach him a lesson. Then suddenly a passenger sitting on the back seat of the other car came out and put a big gun to my friend's forehead and said, look gentleman, what do you want now? If you want money for the damages, then take it, and if you want a fight, you are welcome. My friend's too much argumentation had probably irritated this person who, we learnt later, was a big 'don'. Needless to say, my friend's anger evaporated on seeing the gun and he hastily retreated into his car and set off on his way. The message here is: Do not underestimate the potential for violence in others and secondly, sometimes you yourself may be responsible for inviting the trouble.

6. *Your Health:* Just like work stress, traffic stress also affects our health. We should try not to add to it by indulging in traffic disputes. Surveys have shown that drivers who lose their temper behind the wheel are at much greater risks to themselves than to others. Release of adrenaline in the blood during anger causes a sudden and severe rise in blood pressure that may be responsible for cardiac or brain strokes. In fact tension affects

not only your health [increases heart diseases 4-5 times], but also your efficiency and appearance [ladies, please note that tension adversely affects your complexion and causes permanent lines on your face]

I hope this is enough evidence to convince you to avoid aggressive drivers. I admit that I may not be dead right in this respect or I am not saying that we should make it a habit to suffer always or keep mum even when we are right. No, there are other ways to tackle the situation like taking the help of the police, etc.

How to Avoid Aggressive Driving

Now it is clear from the above that we should try our best to avoid such incidents. The next big question is how to do this.

Step I: Analyze Yourself Honestly: Psychologists have described two types of drivers on the road. One is a safe driver who very well understands and cares for the other people's needs and the expectations on the road. They believe in safe driving in all traffic situations. The second category is of those who think only about their own safety and are least concerned about other people on the road. They believe that they and their business are more important than the lives of anyone else on the road. They feel their driving decisions are always right. The commuters should give them special treatment and should not obstruct their way or delay them. Thus just as in case of good or bad body language, people's driving behaviour may be pleasant or unpleasant.

First of all analyze yourself very honestly and think to which category you belong. This is possible only when you are in a cool frame of mind and not self-righteous. Sometimes your close ones can give you an honest opinion about you. So unless you do an honest self-analysis, the points mentioned below would not affect your driving sense much. You may simply pass on this to other fellows thinking that these are not meant for you.

Once you develop a good traffic psychology, you would realize that the needs or expectations of every category of commuters on roads [cars, two wheelers, cycles, pedestrians, etc.] are different and help to maintain a good balance among the different road users. Therefore, a good traffic psychology not only modifies our driving behaviour but improves our personality as well. Unless we develop this quality in ourselves, we cannot expect the same from the others.

Step II: Identify Your Weak Points or Triggering Factors: You have to find out what exactly makes you angry while driving or what triggers in the past have been responsible for your violent behaviour. It is quite possible that among all the factors mentioned above, a few may

annoy you disproportionately (like, showing a red rag to a bull). These triggering factors may differ from person to person or even from country to country [for example, a red rag which severely annoys a bull, but it does not provoke other animals]. Do not feel otherwise if you find something wrong with your driving habits as everyone of us may not be a perfect driver. There is always scope for all of us to learn as driving is an art and learning is a continuous process.

Step III: Follow These Guidelines or Suggestions:

1. Adjust Your Attitude: Be polite, courteous and tolerant of other drivers' errors even if the other driver does not appear to do the same. It is a documented fact that 90% of those drivers who are more tolerant and forgiving in nature do not find aggressive driving a problem on roads or do not feel anxiety while on the road. So change your attitude and make an effort to stay cool and learn to ignore trivial disputes. This will also make a marked difference in your personal life.

2. Control Your Anger: You cannot take a right decision when you are angry, the moment anger sets in, reason flies out of the window. It is a vicious cycle in which anger generates more anger. The earlier you intercept the cycle, the better are the results. The angrier you get, the more adrenaline you produce making you vengeful and less forgiving. A better leash on your anger means better control over vehicle and increased safety for you and others on the road. If you think you have a problem, look for anger-management measures or courses that may be available.

3. Take Time to React: This is a time tested formula for all types of disputes. The effect of adrenaline lasts only for a few minutes so very soon the intensity of your toxic emotions or craving for revenge reduces. Usually in such situations you act before you think, and to avoid confrontations make some policy before hand when you are cool-headed.

4. Give Benefit of Doubt: Give the other driver the benefit of doubt. It is quite possible that his actions had been unintentional and are not personal. Think of the times when you yourself were young and inexperienced as drivers and may have committed some blunders on the road and probably got away with it.

5. Don't Accept Challenges: [no clapping with one hand] A fight cannot occur unless both the parties are for it. Remember, try to pull yourself out at the very beginning of the dispute, otherwise matters soon get out of hand and it becomes a prestige issue with both the concerned parties. Always avoid making eye contact with the hostile driver as this is often seen as a sign of accepting the challenge. Try to maintain a distance and get out of the way as early as possible even if you are right. You don't want to be absolutely right. Also ensure your safety by

keeping car doors locked. Don't get out of your vehicle easily if you suspect that some one has intentionally struck your vehicle as it might be an attempt at kidnapping after provoking you to behave aggressively.

6. Don't Hesitate to Apologize if You are Wrong: It is not always easy to say sorry especially to strangers. If you make a mistake, apologize properly. Here it is not a point that it should be a heart-felt apology, but at least you can make an effort. Remember words do only 10% the job; it is the tone and gesture that impresses most. Just by changing the tone and gesture while saying the same sentence i.e. 'I am sorry' you can convey from extreme politeness to even abuse.

7. Learn to Smile at Fellow Commuters: Don't keep your smile reserved for your customers or office colleagues or people whom you know or love. Please spare some for your fellow-travellers. For example, while asking for a pass or requesting to shift his vehicle, etc. and see the magical effect!

8. Don't Panic About Damage to Your Vehicle: Nowadays most of them are insured and you are sure to get damages. See also chapter 4 (The first dent on my car).

9. Role of Fellow-Passengers: They should not encourage or incite the person driving to fight.

10. Set an Example for the Next Generation: As we know, moral values are largely imbibed from parents and seniors and do not require any formal teaching or education. The same is true of traffic etiquette. Secondly, don't feel embarrassed in front of your younger ones if you are being harassed. Instead, you have to show them how to avoid aggression on the road.

11. Be a Model Road User: You could be a role model even for the other commuters. If you follow traffic rules even when nobody is watching, certainly it will motivate others to follow it. Some times you justify your traffic violations by saying that you were sure about safety, but like this you may indirectly inspire others to violate the rule.

12. Be Lakhnavi: In the city of Lucknow, in older days it used to be a part of lakhnavi 'tehzeeb(manner)' that the two nawabs always used to offer the other one to pass 'pehle aap pehle aap'. I don't know whether it is still followed even in Lucknow.

13. Don't Mind Using a Reverse Gear: It does not mean you are pulling away from a battlefield. If you recall, you find that during the whole day you use the reverse gear a number of times while pulling

in and out of parking lots, etc. So if you are required to do so, one more time due to some traffic problem, what is the harm? Even if the other person is trying to pressurize you it hardly matters.

14. If Caught in a Traffic Jam: In such a situation first of all you should understand that it is a collective problem and you have to bear it with other drivers. You can hardly change the road or traffic conditions immediately, but certainly you can control your reactions to it. Accept that you are going to be late and inform the concerned people. In these conditions try to make the most of your time by listening to music, etc. keep your body relaxed. Solve some problems or take the time to plan ahead. Certainly the sky will not fall down, if you are late. And it definitely is not the end of the world if you are a bit late?

15. Get Help from Police: If someone is threatening you or is in a mood for illogical arguments, politely offer to accompany him to the nearest police station and leave the rest to the police. People who are of shady character would always be hesitant to face the police. If you sense that the people arguing with you are in a majority and their intentions are not good it is always better to involve the police. If there is no compulsion to get out of the car, you may inform the police by your cell phone. Alternatively if you don't have any police number, you may inform your close ones about the incident and your location. If you don't have a mobile phone, and you are being constantly chased, drive to the nearest police station or a busy place where there are people around like some store, mall or hospital. If you succeed in avoiding the culprits, you may later on complain to the police with the particulars of their vehicle.

16. Periodically Assess the Behavior of Your Driver: Same as you ensure the roadworthiness of your car, there is also a need to assess the temperament and physical fitness of your driver periodically. Although it holds true of both commercial and private vehicle owners, it seems to be more important for commercial vehicle drivers like school buses, trucks and taxis. The reason is that when the owner of the vehicle is not there to keep a check on their activities, they may feel less inhibited and become arrogant and aggressive. If so, this is the time to chuck them out rather than wait for a mishap to occur. Counsel him to change his profession as even if he continues as a driver in some other organization, he will be equally dangerous on the road.

17. Don't Try to Educate: It is no use trying to educate a strange or hostile person on the road. Leave this job to their close ones or the traffic police.

18. *Concentrate on Your Basic Aim in Life:* You cannot fight all your battles, and to win a big battle it is quite acceptable to ignore some smaller ones. Consider that these traffic disputes are really of no consequence in the larger picture of things and a part of daily life. There are so many struggles in life and you may do well to put your energy to much better use elsewhere. So save your time and energy for something more worthwhile.

19. *Better Time Management:* In order to avoid rush hour jams, you should leave home well before time or alter your schedule a little.

20. *Don't drive when you are angry, upset, or tired.*

21. *Avoid Menace Provoking Activities:* follow some basic traffic etiquette: e.g. while parking do not obstruct other's vehicles and look before reversing. Choose the correct lane well before the crossing and don't jump lanes suddenly at the crossing. Allow to overtake if someone demands, do not block the roads while talking to some pedestrian or driver, use horn properly, use short beam for the incoming traffic, etc.

ROAD RAGE

Definition: The road rage is an extreme form of aggressive driving where the angry driver on a trifling traffic dispute becomes violent and intentionally assaults or injures the other drivers or people on the road. Such people have a basic criminal instinct so that they do not hesitate to kill someone. They might have a criminal background or history of violent behaviour in the past. They become violent at the slightest provocation not only on roads but also on other occasions. You might have heard that someone has seriously injured his wife or children over a very small issue. The message is that if such people can kill their loved ones there is no reason why he will hesitate to kill someone not related, that too, at a place where nobody knows him while committing a crime and when caught he would be booked only for an unintentional death for which probably he would get the bail at the police station level itself.

Road rage is an informal terminology that has probably originated from the USA. The main differences between aggressive driving and road rage are: In Aggressive driving there may be verbal altercations or by driving dangerously, they may put the others' life in danger indirectly but usually this does not go beyond heated arguments or furious shouts. Road rage is basically a criminal behaviour where an uncontrollable anger causes one driver to directly attack another driver to seriously injure or kill. The aggressive drivers are considered mainly as traffic offenders while the drivers of road rage are purely criminals. The causes and triggering factors in both are the same as mentioned above except that the reaction

BRAVE
MAN! T&K,
T&K.: VICTIM
OF ROAD
RAGE.



in cases of road rage is much more exaggerated. At the slightest mistake or provocation by the other driver they are ready to teach a lesson by injuring him or even causing death. They have also been named as road terrorists and such killings as vehicular homicides. Victims are usually totally innocent people who happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Some psychologists hold that violent behaviour is an animal instinct which is necessary for the survival of their species.

Incidence: There are no data available in India as to how many people are killed as a result of road rage. But certainly road rage is on the increase these days. You must have heard about innocent people been mercilessly beaten to death or attacked on roads. Figures that are available from the developed countries show that thousands of persons are killed in incidents of road rage every year in countries like USA [1200-1500/year] and UK. Why do these developed countries have such a high incidence of road rage? Does it have some direct relation with modernization or the fast economic growth of a nation? We are worried about the emergence of this phenomenon because now our country has also started to experience the same kind of syndrome of modernization, economic boom and prosperity. Is this the reason why India is also beginning to experience increased incidence of road rage? If so, then we have to find out why and how modernization adversely affects the civic sense of the people.

Weapons Used: In most cases they use weapons like firearms, knives, swords during the attack. The vehicle which the culprit is driving has often been used as a weapon to kill. Besides, any object available in the car or at the spot like iron rods, jack handles, Baseball bats, batons, helmets, liquor bottles, stones, etc are used. If nothing is available then a free style WWF follows with fists and feet.

Road rage: Is it a Psychiatric Disorder?

If you examine from a psychiatrist's point of view, you will certainly find many significant symptoms of some psychiatric disorders [e.g. intermittent explosive disorder] in people who indulge in road rage. However, if you question the experts or the authorities who deal with these criminals, they would certainly disagree. I also think that labeling these criminals as psychiatric patients would give them an excuse for their behaviour and injustice to the victims. These so-called road terrorists are a real menace to the public. People with such background of criminal behaviour should not be ignored and if at all, they are psychiatric patients, in my opinion, jail would be the best mental asylum for them. My reasons for disagreement are: 1. Though they are labelled as mentally sick, but they

would never allow their car to collide with a stronger vehicle like truck or bus. 2. Why are they first diagnosed during incidence of road rage only? If they really suffer from such disorders, there must be a long history. 3. I don't agree that road rage is out of frustration, overwork, or financial problems, etc. It may be a precipitating factor, but not the root cause. In fact most of us have some or the other problem in our lives, but we do not indulge in road rage. What I think they are pampered, spoilt, uncivilized people with extreme degrees of arrogance. They may be mentally disturbed but I don't think that they should be labelled as mentally sick and should be allowed to go scot free.

Punishments for Aggressive Driving & Road Rage

For Aggressive Driving: Aggressive drivers are most commonly booked under the Motor Vehicles Act for rash and negligent driving [inviting a penalty of Rs 1000] and for dangerous driving [penalty of Rs 1000 and/or cancellation of driving license and/or imprisonment up to 6 months]. However, most of the time penalty is confined only to a monetary fine and the traffic police rarely punish them with imprisonment. The fine is taken lightly by these aggressive drivers and, in fact, they consider it as permission for the next such offences. So, instead of making new laws, there is a need for better enforcement of the existing traffic laws.

For road rage: These road terrorists are nothing less than common criminals and should be treated as such. At present, road rage is not covered in M.V. Act and we need new laws to cover this offence. At present, they can be covered under the existing criminal laws. There is a wide range of sections in IPC that can be applied to road rage [279, 337, and 338, 160, 304A, 302 and 302]. We see there are plenty of IPC sections ranging from mild to severe punishments that can be applied to road rage criminals. However, the traffic police are very reluctant in taking harsh actions in such cases. Even after the death of the victim they usually book offender under weaker sections like rash and negligent driving or under section 160 of the Indian Penal Code for fighting or quarrelling on the road which at the worst attracts a month's imprisonment. How can the killing of an innocent person on road wilfully and intentionally be regarded as a 'negligent act on road'? or be called a result of a quarrel or fasaad. There is a strong feeling among people now that these cases should be dealt with at least under 304A for being guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder or to the fullest extent of the law.

At present these sections are applied only in cases when the people and the media make a pressure for it. Thus there is a need for clearer guidelines for such criminals who either grievously injure or kill

an innocent person on the road. The law should be unambiguous otherwise the offenders take the advantage of the ambiguous wordings of the law or its interpretations. We expect from the authorities to set some example of harsh punishment for the road ragers and the same should be brought in to the lime-light by the media. That may help to reduce this kind of nuisance on roads.