#### Orientation programme on Motor Vehicle Amendment Act 2019 and Rules 2022

3rd May 2025

#### Karma Wangchuk Bhutia, PDJ, Gangtok

#### **Indian Motor Vehicles Act,** 1914

- Central legislation passed and applicable in British India. Some princely states followed suit with modifications.
- Motor vehicles were first introduced in India towards the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century and the 1914 Act was the first legislation to regulate their use.
- It had 19 sections, and gave local governments the responsibility of registering and licensing vehicles and motorists, and enforcing regulations.

- Amended by Indian Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 1920 (Act No. XXVII of 1920) and
- Indian Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 1924 (Act No. XV of 1924) passed by the Imperial Legislative Council.

#### Motor Vehicles Act, 1939

- Consolidated and amended the then existing motor vehicle laws including those relating to insurance, permits, and traffic regulations.
- It was updated through amendments to reflect changes in technology and road transport patterns.
- It had 135 sections.

- Section 110: Constitution of Claims Tribunals
- Section 110A: Application for compensation
- S. 110A : S. 166 of 1988 Act

#### The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

- Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 had been amended several times to keep it up-to-date.
- Need was felt that the Act of 1939 should take into account changes in road transport technology, pattern of passenger and freight movements, development of road network in the country and particularly the improved techniques in the motor vehicles management.

- Working Group constituted in January, 1984 to review all the provisions of 1939 Act and to submit draft proposals for comprehensive legislation to replace the existing Act
- Took into account suggestions and recommendations earlier made by various bodies and institutions



M.K. Kunhimohammed v. P.A. Ahmedkutty, (1987) 4 SCC 28

 to raise limit of compensation payable in respect of death and permanent disablement in event of there being no proof of fault on the part of person involved in the accident and also in hit and run motor accidents and to remove certain disparities in the liability of insurer to pay compensation depending upon the class or type of vehicles involved in the accident.

### Object

- Implementing strict procedures for issuing licences and determining their validity period;
- Ensuring road safety by regulating the transportation of hazardous and explosive materials and enforcing pollution control measures;
- Manage the rapid increase in the number of personal and commercial vehicles in the country;
- Increase the amount of compensation available to the victims of hit-and-run accidents;
- Remove the time limit for traffic accident victims to file compensation claims.

#### **Amending Acts**

- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 1994 (54 of 1994).
- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2000 (27 of 2000).
- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2001 (39 of 2001) and
- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 (32 of 2019)

## The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 by the Minister for Road Transport and Highways
- Received assent of the President on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019
- Came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

## Changes brought about by 2019 amendment

- **Compensation for road accident victims:** Scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour – the time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest
- to make scheme for providing interim relief to claimants seeking compensation under third party insurance.
- to increase minimum compensation for hit and run cases in case of death, from ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 2 lakh and in case of grievous injury, from ₹ 12,500 to ₹ 50,000.

#### • Compulsory insurance:

- to constitute **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India.
- to be utilised for: (i) treatment of persons injured in road accidents as per the golden hour scheme, (ii) compensation to representatives of a person who died in a hit and run accident, (iii) compensation to a person grievously hurt in a hit and run accident, and (iv) compensation to any other persons as prescribed by the central government.

- **To protect Good samaritans:** a person who renders emergency medical or non-medical assistance to a victim at the scene of an accident (i) in good faith, (ii) voluntary, and (iii) without the expectation of any reward.
- Such a person will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of an accident victim, caused due to their negligence in providing assistance to the victim.

- **Recall of vehicles:** to allow central government to order for recall of motor vehicles if a defect in the vehicle may cause damage to the environment, or the driver, or other road users
- manufacturer of recalled vehicle will be required to:

   reimburse the buyers for full cost of the vehicle, or (ii) replace defective vehicle with another vehicle with similar or better specifications

- National Transportation Policy:
- to develop NTP in consultation with state governments
- will (i) establish planning framework for road transport, (ii) develop framework for grant of permits, and (iii) specify priorities for transport system, among other things

 Road Safety Board:Constitution of National Road Safety Board to advise the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management including: (i) standards of motor vehicles, (ii) registration and licensing of vehicles, (iii) standards for road safety, and (iv) promotion of new vehicle technology.

- **Offences and penalties:** increases penalties for several offences under the Act.
- For example: maximum penalty for driving under influence of alcohol or drugs increased from ₹ 2,000 to ₹ 10,000;
- If a vehicle manufacturer fails to comply with motor vehicle standards, the penalty will be a fine of up to ₹ 100 crore, or imprisonment of up to one year, or both.
- If a contractor fails to comply with road design standards, the penalty will be a fine of up to ₹ 1 lakh.
- The central government may increase fines every year by up to 10%

- Taxi aggregators:
- digital intermediaries or market places which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation purposes (taxi services). These aggregators will be issued licenses by state; UBER, OLA etc
- they must comply with the Information Technology Act, 2000.

- National Register for Driving Licence and Registration certificate: Central database maintained by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. It consolidates data from individual state registers, providing a nationwide view of driving licenses and vehicle registration details.
- will ensure uniform system of registration of licenses and registration certificates throughout the country. It will also avoid making fake LL, DL, RC and improve transparency in vehicle transactions

#### • Training of drivers:

- Strengthens process of driving training which leads to a faster issuance of licenses;
- Comes in the wake of shortage of commercial drivers.
- Encourages opening of more driver training institutes to ensure production of better commercial drivers.

- Online Driving Licences:
- Provision for online issuance of learner's license, mandating an online identity verification
- Would improve efficiency and limit issuance of fake licenses, increase transparency and provides commercial licenses to be valid up to 5 years instead of 3 years.

#### Changes introduced by the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 2022

#### Safety measures for children on motorcycle (Rule 138(7))

• mandates that riders carrying children between 9 months and 4 years use safety harness to secure the child to the rider



#### **Road Accident Investigation (Rule 150A)**

 outlines procedure for investigating all accidents involving motor vehicles including the use of a designated online portal for electronic submission of reports



**1. Investigating Officer shall inspect the site of accident**, take photographs/videos of scene of accident and the vehicle(s) involved in the accident and prepare a site plan, drawn to scale, as to indicate the layout and width, etc., of the road(s) or place (s), as the case may be, the position of vehicle(s), and person(s) involved, and such other facts as may be relevant.

- In injury cases, the IO shall also take photographs of injured in the hospital.
- The IO shall conduct spot enquiry by examining the eyewitnesses/bystanders.



# 2. Intimation of accident to the ClaimsTribunal and Insurance Company within48 hours:

• The IO shall intimate the accident to the Claims Tribunal within 48 hours of the accident, by submitting the First Accident Report (FAR) in Form-I 0, 1-01, 228

#### FORM-I

#### FIRST ACCIDENT REPORT (FAR)

By Investigating Officer to Claims Tribunal Within 48 hours of the receipt of intimation of the Accident Copy to Victim(s) and Insurance Company and State Legal Services Authority (SLSA)

FIR No.	
Date	
Under Section	
Police Station	

12.9

- If the particulars of insurance policy are available, the intimation of accident in Form I also to be given to Nodal Officer of concerned Insurance Company of offending vehicle.
- Copy of Form I also to be provided to victim(s), State Legal Services Authority, insurer and uploaded on the website of State Police, if available

- **3. The IO furnish to furnish description of rights of victim(s) of road accidents and flow chart of the Scheme** mentioned in Form II, to the victim(s), or their legal representatives, within 10 days of the accident.
- The IO also to file copy of Form II along with the Detailed Accident Report (DAR)

## 4. Driver's Form to be submitted by driver to the IO:

• The IO to provide blank copy of Form III to the driver of the vehicle(s) involved in accident and the driver to furnish relevant information in Form III to the IO within 30 days of the accident.



## 5. Owner's Form to be submitted by the owner:

• The IO to provide a blank copy of Form IV to the owner(s) of the vehicle(s) involved in the accident and the owner(s) shall furnish the relevant information in Form IV to the IO within 30 days of accident

#### 6. Interim Accident Report (IAR) to be submitted by the Investigating Officer to the Claims Tribunal:

- The IO to submit Interim Accident Report (IAR) in Form-V to the Claims Tribunal within 50 days of accident.
- The IAR shall be accompanied with documents mentioned therein, and a copy of the IAR along with the documents shall be furnished to the Insurance Company of the vehicle(s) involved in the accident, the victim(s)/claimant, SLSA, the insurer and General Insurance Council.

- 7. Verification of Driver's Form and Owner's Form by the IO and Insurance Company: through information available on VAHAN or by obtaining confirmation in writing from the registration authority/person purported to have issued the same or by such further investigation or verification.
- IO to file the verification report before the Claims Tribunal along with DAR.
### 8. Victim's Form to be submitted by victim(s) to IO:

• The IO to provide a blank copy of Form VI to the victim(s), or their legal representatives, in the accident and they shall furnish the relevant information and attach the relevant documents in Form VI to the Investigating Officer, within sixty (60) days of accident.

### 9. Victim's Form to be submitted by victim(s) in respect of minor children:

• In case of any minor child/children of victim(s) of accident, the IO to provide blank Form-VIA to victim(s), who shall fill up relevant information/attach relevant documents and submit the same to the IO within 60 days of accident. Thereafter, IO shall send copy of the Forms along with DAR to Child Welfare Committee, within 30 days of receiving the aforesaid Forms from the victim(s).

- CWC shall ascertain if the child is in need of care and protection as per the JJ Act, 2015.
- The IO shall also send copies of Form-VI and VIA along with DAR to SLSA to assign legal aid counsel to assist the child/children to avail their legal remedies/rights, including education, within 30 days of receiving the aforesaid Forms from victim(s)

#### 10. Verification of the Victim's Forms by the Insurance Company:

• The IO shall furnish copy of Form VI and VIA, along with the documents, to insurance company of vehicle(s) involved in accident along with DAR, and the insurance company shall verify the information and documents furnished by victims within 30 days from the date of receipt of DAR

#### 11. Investigation of the criminal case to be completed by the police within 60 days of the accident:

• The IO shall complete investigation of the criminal case and file report under S. 173, CrPC before the concerned Court within 60 days of the accident, and shall submit a copy of the said report along with DAR submitted before the Claims Tribunal

#### 12. DAR to be submitted by the IO before the Claims Tribunal:

• The IO shall complete verification of information and documents further in this Annexure, and submit the DAR in Form VII to the Claims Tribunal, within 90 days from the date of the accident



#### DAR shall be accompanied by:-

- (a) Site Plan as per Form VIII;
- (b) Mechanical Inspection Report as per Form IX;
- (c) Verification Report as per Form X;
- (d) Report under S. 173 CrPC.

# **13.** Copy of DAR to be submitted by IO to victim(s), owner/driver of the vehicle(s) involved in the accident, insurance company and SLSA



14. Investigating Officer may seek necessary directions from Claims Tribunal if the driver(s), owner(s), insurance company and/or claimant(s) fail to disclose any relevant information and/or documents required under this Annexure.

• The Claims Tribunal may thereafter direct the parties in default to submit requisite information along with relevant documents as per this Annexure directly with the Claims Tribunal within 15 days

### **15. Duty of Registering Authority to verify documents:**

• The Registering Authority shall verify registration certificate, driving licence, fitness and permit in respect of the vehicles involved in accident within 15 days of the application being made by the IO

### 16. Duty of hospitals to issue MLC and postmortem report:

• The concerned hospital shall issue MLC and postmortem report to the IO within 15 days of the accident



#### **17. Extension of time to file IAR and DAR:**

• Where the IO is unable to file IAR within 50 days and/or the DAR within 90 days for reasons beyond his control, such as in cases of hit and run accidents; cases where the parties reside outside the jurisdiction of the Court; where the driving licence is issued outside the jurisdiction of the Court, or where the victim(s) has suffered grievous injuries and is undergoing continuous treatment, the IO shall approach the Claims Tribunal for extension of time to file IAR or DAR, whereupon the Claims Tribunal shall extend the time as it considers appropriate in the facts and circumstances of each case.

### 18. Examination of FAR, IAR and DAR by the Claims Tribunal:

• The Claims Tribunal shall examine whether the FAR, IAR and DAR are complete in all respects. If the DAR is complete in all respects, the Claims Tribunal shall fix a date for appearance of the driver(s), owner(s), claimant(s) and the eye witness(es) and the IO shall produce them on the date so fixed.

• The IO shall also intimate the date so fixed by the Claims Tribunal to the Nodal Officer of the Insurance Company and the Insurance Company shall ensure appearance on the date so fixed.



• If the FAR, IAR, and DAR are not complete, the Claims Tribunal shall direct the IO to complete the same and shall fix a date for the said completion.

## 19. Duty of the IO to produce the driver(s), owner(s), claimant(s) and eye witness(es) before the Claims Tribunal:

• The IO shall produce them after the order of Claims Tribunal that the DAR is complete in all respects. However, if the IO is unable to produce them before Claims Tribunal on the date fixed for reasons beyond his control, the Claims Tribunal may issue notice to them to be served through the IO for a date for appearance not later than 30 days. • The IO shall give an advance notice to the Nodal Officer of the concerned insurance company about the date of filing of the DAR before the Claims Tribunal so that the nominated Counsel for insurance Company can remain present on the first date of hearing before the Claims Tribunal.

### **20. Duties of Police shall be construed to be part of State Police Act:**

• The duties of police enumerated above shall be construed as if they are included in the respective State Police Act and any breach thereof shall entail consequences envisaged in that law.



#### 21. Claims Tribunal shall treat DAR as a claim petition for compensation under subsection (4) of section 166 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:

(1) The Claims Tribunal shall treat the DAR filed by the IO as a claim petition under section (4) of section 166 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. However, where the IO is unable to produce the claimant(s) on the first date of hearing, the Claims Tribunal shall register the DAR as a claim petition after the appearance of claimant(s).

- (2) Where the claimant(s) have filed a separate claim petition, the DAR may be tagged along with the claim petition.
- (3) If the report under S. 173, CrPC has not been filed at the time of filing of the DAR, the Claims Tribunal may either wait till filing of the report under S. 173 or record the statement of eye witness(es) to satisfy itself with respect to the negligence before passing the award.

• (4) The Claims Tribunal shall register the FAR as a Miscellaneous application and the IAR as well as DAR shall be taken on record in the same Miscellaneous application.



#### 22. Cases of rash and negligent driving:

• The Claims Tribunal shall register the case under S.166 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, if the DAR and in particular, the report under S. 173 of CrPC has brought a case of rash and negligent driving



However, in cases where DAR does not bring a charge of negligence or claimant(s) choose to claim compensation on **no-fault basis** despite the charge of negligence, the Claims Tribunal shall register the claim as a case under S. 164 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

#### 23. Duty of the Insurance Companies to appoint a Designated Officer within 10 days of the receipt of the copy of DAR:

 The Designated Officer shall be responsible for dealing / processing of that case and to pass a reasoned decision in writing with respect to compensation payable to the claimant(s) in accordance with law.

#### 24. Duty of the Insurance Companies to appoint a Nodal Officer and intimate the State Police:

 All the insurance companies shall appoint Nodal Officer and intimate the name, address, phone numbers/mobile numbers and e- mail address of their Nodal Officer to the State police and all the IOs of State police dealing with investigation of motor accident claims shall send relevant forms and documents to the Nodal Officer by e-mail.

### **25. Duty of Insurance Companies to verify the claim:**

- The insurance companies are duty bound to verify the correctness/genuineness of every claim.
- The insurance companies shall direct their own officer(s) or appoint an investigator or surveyor to verify the claim

• If the statements made in DAR are found to be incorrect, the Designated Officer shall send copy of the report of surveyor/investigator to the Deputy Commissioner of Police concerned. If the insurance company, upon investigation, finds a case of fake accident, they shall be at liberty to file application before the Deputy Commissioner of Police concerned to requisition the call detail record (CDR) of the driver of the offending vehicle

## 26. Form XI to be submitted by InsuranceCompany before the Claims Tribunal within30 days of DAR:

• If the liability to pay compensation is not disputed, the insurance company shall take a decision as to the quantum of compensation payable to claimant(s) in accordance with law within 30 days of the date of intimation of accident. The decision taken by the Designated Officer of the insurance company shall be a reasoned decision in writing, and be submitted before the Claims Tribunal in Form XI.

• If the Insurance Company does not admit the liability to pay compensation, it shall disclose the grounds of defence in Form XI and shall file copy of report of Surveyor/ Investigator along with said form.

## 27. Consent award to be passed where claimant(s) accepts the offer of Insurance Company:

• Compensation assessed by Designated Officer of the Insurance Company shall constitute a legal offer to the claimant(s) and if the said amount is fair and acceptable to the claimant(s), the Claims Tribunal shall pass a consent award and shall provide 30 days time from the date of receipt of the decree to the Insurance Company to deposit the award amount.

- However, before passing the consent award, the Claims Tribunal shall ensure that the claimant(s) are awarded just compensation in accordance with law.
- The Claims Tribunal shall ensure that the consent award is passed within 6 months from the date of accident.



### 28. Claimant(s) to respond to the offer of Insurance Company within 30 days:

• If the claimant(s) are not in a position to immediately respond to the offer of the Insurance Company, the Claims Tribunal shall grant them time not later than 30 days to respond to the said offer.



#### **29. In case of non-settlement, the Claims Tribunal shall conduct an enquiry and pass an award within 30 days:**

- If the offer of Insurance Company is not fair or is not acceptable to the claimant(s) or if the Insurance Company has any defence available to it under law, the Claims Tribunal shall proceed to conduct an inquiry under Ss 168 and 169.
- The Claims Tribunal shall pass an award after hearing the parties, within nine months from the date of the accident.

### **30. Cases where the Insurance Company disputes the liability:**

- If Insurance Company disputes liability to pay compensation, it shall disclose the grounds of defence in Form-XI.
- If Claims Tribunal considers recording of evidence necessary, it shall conduct an inquiry in terms of Ss168 and 169 to be completed within one year from date of accident.
- If Claims Tribunal is unable to complete inquiry within one year, it shall record reasons thereof in the award. It may direct recording of the evidence by Local Commissioner, if the Insurance Company is willing to bear the fees of the LC.

### 31. Duty of Claims Tribunal to elicit the truth:

• Before passing the award on the basis of DAR, the Claims Tribunal shall satisfy itself that statements made in the DAR are true and shall satisfy itself with respect to the genuineness of the claim as well as all the relevant facts. The Claims Tribunal may consider examining the parties under S. 165 of the Evidence Act, 1872

### **32. Examination of the claimant(s) before passing of the award:**

• (1) The Claims Tribunal shall, before or at the time of passing of the award, examine the claimant(s) to ascertain their financial condition/needs, mode of disbursement and amount to be kept in fixed deposits.


• (2) The Claims Tribunal shall ensure that the following documents of claimants are taken on record before disbursement of the award amount:

(a) Aadhaar Card and PAN Card;

(b) Details of the Aadhaar linked Bank account(s) near the place of their residence along with proper endorsement; and

(c) Two sets of photographs and specimen signatures

### 33. Written submissions to be filed by the parties before Claims Tribunals:

• In case written submissions are required to be filed, both the parties shall file the written submissions with respect to their computation of compensation before the Claims Tribunal in Form XIII for death cases and Form XIV for injury cases.

#### 34. Deposit of the award amount:

• The respondent held liable to pay compensation by the Claims Tribunal shall give notice of deposit of compensation amount to the claimant(s) and shall file a compliance report with the Claims Tribunal, either electronically or otherwise, with respect to the deposit of compensation amount within 15 days of the deposit with interest up to the date of notice of deposit with a copy to their counsel within 30 days of the award.

#### 35. Disbursement of the award amount:

• The mode of release of the award amount shall be as determined by the Claims Tribunal



#### **36. Protection of the award amount:**

• The Claims Tribunal shall, depending upon the financial status and financial need of the claimant(s), release such amount as may be considered necessary and direct the remaining amount to be kept in fixed deposits to be released in a phased manner in accordance with Motor Accident Claims Tribunal Annuity Deposit Scheme stipulated in Form XIX.

# **37. Claims Tribunal shall deal with the compliance of the provisions in the award:**

- Claims Tribunal shall incorporate summary of computation of compensation in the award in Form-XV for death cases and in Form-XVI for injury cases.
- The Claims Tribunal shall also incorporate the compliance of the procedure prescribed in this Annexure in Form XVII.

### **38. The Claims Tribunal shall fix a date for reporting compliance**

- and shall direct the Insurance Company, and/or driver/owner to place on record proof of deposit of compensation amount with upto date interest, the notice of deposit and calculation of interest on the date so fixed.
- Upon such proof being filed, the Claims Tribunal shall ensure that interest upto the date of notice of deposit has been deposited by the party concerned

If the award amount is not deposited within the stipulated period, Claims Tribunal shall, after expiry of 90 days from the date of an award, on an application by the Decree Holders in this regard, execute the award in accordance with sub-section (4) of sections 169 and S. 174 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

• The Claims Tribunal shall execute its award in terms of the principles laid down by the Supreme Court in this regard, and if the award of the Claims Tribunal is stayed by the High Court in appeal, the Claims Tribunal shall close the matter with liberty to the claimant(s) to revive it after the decision of the appeal.

## **39. Copy of the DAR as well as the award to be sent to the concerned criminal court:**

- The Claims Tribunal shall send certified copy of the award to the concerned criminal court.
- The IO shall submit a copy of DAR before the concerned criminal court within 7 days of submitting the same before the Claims Tribunal.
- The IO shall also submit copy of the award passed by Claims Tribunal before the concerned criminal court within 7 days of passing of the award.

### 40. Copy of the award to be sent to the State Legal Services Authority:

• The Claims Tribunal shall send copy of the award to the State Legal Services Authority.



#### 41. Record of awards of the Claims Tribunal:

- The record of the awards passed by Claims Tribunals shall be maintained in a chronological order according to the date of award in such a manner that it is easy for the litigants/lawyers to ascertain whether the compensation has been received or not.
- The format of the record of the awards shall be in Form-XVIII

#### 42. Victim Impact Report (VIR) to be filed by State Legal Services Authority before the concerned criminal court:

• After conviction of the driver in the criminal case, the concerned criminal court shall send the copy of the judgment as well as the affidavit of the accused with respect to his assets and income to the State Legal Services Authority, and they shall conduct a summary inquiry and submit a Victim Impact Report (VIR) before the concerned criminal court within 30 days of the conviction, as per Form-XII.

#### **Best Practices**

- Parmanand Katara v. Union of India and Others, (1989) 4 SCC 286
- every injured citizen brought for medical treatment to a hospital should be instantaneously given medical aid to preserve life

- Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (S. 164-B)
- (3) The Fund shall be utilised for:-
- (a) treatment of persons injured in road accidents in accordance with the scheme framed by the Central Government under Section 162;
- (b) compensation to representatives of a person who died in hit and run motor accident or to a person grievously hurt, in accordance with schemes framed under Section 161;

#### S. Rajaseekaran v. Union of India and Others, W (C) no. 295 of 2012 : 2025 INSC 45

- Cashless treatment (S. 162) Scheme for golden hour
- Order dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Central Government directed to frame scheme and report compliance by 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025

- 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the Hon'ble Supreme Court pulled up the Secretary of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for inordinate delay in framing the statutory scheme for providing cashless treatment to motor accident victims during the golden hour
- Notified scheme be placed on record by 9<sup>th</sup> May and the matter will next be heard on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

#### **On limitation to file claim application**

• Act of 1939 provided under S. 110A (3) Provided that Claims Tribunal may entertain the application after the expiry of the said period of 6 months if it is satisfied that the applicant was prevented by sufficient cause from making the application in time



• **S. 166 (3)** No application for compensation shall be entertained unless it is made within 6 months of the occurrence of accident:

- Malaravan v. Praveen Travels Private
  Limited, CRP no. 2558 of 2023 dated 18<sup>th</sup> August
  2023 (Hon'ble Madras High Court)
- **S. 166 (4)** Claims Tribunal shall treat any report of accidents forwarded to it under S. 159 as an application for compensation under this Act.
- Rule 150A of CMV Rules, 2022 Procedure for investigation of road accident

- A reading of S. 166(4) shows that if any report of accident is forwarded under S. 159, the same shall be treated as an application for compensation. It has now become a statutory duty of the Police to send a report. It is pertinent to point out that the amendment under Section 166(4) does not speak about the IAR, FAR and DAR but speaks about "any report that has been sent by the police". Therefore, even if an FIR is sent by the police to the Tribunal, the same should be treated a Claim Petition.
- On registration of an FIR, a claimant is entitled to present the petition without the fear of it being thrown out, on the ground of limitation.

#### Gohar Mohammed v. Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation and Others in S.L.P. (C).No.32448 of 2018

- Police are mandated to file reports with the Claims Tribunal, which should treat the same as a claim petition. The claimants are no longer burdened to search for documents necessary for filing a claim.
- The duty to report is now with the police and the duty to process the said information given by the police lies with the Claims Tribunal. When access is given to the Tribunal to FIR and the other details sent by the police, the claimant need not be made to run around or suffer from a fear that his petition is barred by time.

#### **Thank You**

