

Chairs: Dr Gagandeep Singh
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Members:

1. Dr P Satish Chandra
2. Ms Yashoda Wakankar
3. Dr Neeraj Baheti
4. Dr Atma Ram Bansal
5. Dr Joy Desai
6. Dr Mamatha M Rajeev
7. Dr Nirmal Surya
8. Dr. Pazhani Ranganathan
9. Mr Vinay Jani
10. Dr Goutam Gangopadhyay
11. Dr R K Surekha
12. Dr H V Srinivas
13. Manjari Tripathi

Project/program name: Revision of Driving License Regulation in India for Person with Epilepsy

Under the current Motor Vehicle Act of 1939, individuals with epilepsy are disqualified from obtaining a driving license if they have experienced even a single seizure at any point in their lives. However, with advancements in medical science, highly effective treatments are now available that can provide excellent seizure control, allowing many individuals to live seizure-free lives. Countries like the USA, Germany, Australia, and Japan have adopted more inclusive regulations, allowing driving privileges for individuals after 3 months to 2 years of being seizure-free, while maintaining road safety. The blanket restriction on driving imposed by the current law severely impacts on the quality of life of individuals with epilepsy, leaving them dependent on others for transportation. Hence a revision of driving license regulation for persons with epilepsy is needed.

A task force was constituted under the leadership of Dr. Gagandeep Singh and Dr. Bindu Menon. Dr. Neeraj Baheti from Nagpur representing the Indian

Epilepsy Association, spearheaded this advocacy initiative. On behalf of the association, they met with Honorable Transport Minister Mr. Nitin Gadkari (along with Mr. Ramesh Mantri) on Friday, October 18th, 2024; he advised follow-up with his Secretary, Kunal Joshi, at Transport Bhavan, New Delhi.

On Oct 22, 2024, Dr. Neeraj Baheti, Dr. Gagandeep Singh, Dr. Atma Ram Bansal, and colleagues met Principal Secretary Kunal Joshi, who supported revisiting the rules and forwarded the submission to the Health Secretary for review.

Throughout the process, Dr. Neeraj Baheti and Dr. Pradya Gadgil maintained persistent advocacy efforts, coordinating with multiple stakeholders including Mr. Mantri from Nagpur and Mr. Sarang Kale from Pune, to ensure regular follow-ups on the policy revision. Their sustained engagement was instrumental in keeping the initiative moving forward through various government ministries.

Stakeholders

The project involved extensive multi-ministerial coordination between transport and health authorities, with the Additional Director General (ADG) of the Health Ministry convening a crucial meeting on April 4th, 2025, bringing together Heads of Department (Neurology) from different institutes in Delhi and Indian Epilepsy Association stakeholders. Following detailed deliberations, medical recommendations were formally forwarded to the Transport Ministry on April 16th, 2025. Subsequently, a high-level expert committee meeting was convened on December 3rd, 2025, under the chairmanship of Dr. Sunita Mondal (Additional DGHS) with specialist neurologists from premier hospitals including Dr. RML Hospital and LHMC. The committee revised the medical certificate format (Form 1A) to include specific epilepsy assessment provisions requiring three years of seizure-free status and compliance with anti-seizure medication.

The new regulations permit private vehicle licenses with accelerated two-year renewals, explicitly excluding drug-refractory epilepsy cases while ensuring patient safety through mandatory neurologist certification.

The Journey

- October 18, 2024: Dr. Neeraj Baheti (with Mr. Ramesh Mantri) met Transport Minister Mr. Nitin Gadkari; Minister directed them to Principal Secretary
- October 22, 2024: Meeting with Principal Secretary Mr. Kunal Joshi at Transport Bhavan, New Delhi; referral to Ministry of Health for medical expert opinion

- November 2024: Dr. Pradnya Gadgil thru her acquaintance Mr. Sarang Kale relentlessly persuaded Ministry of Road Transport & Highway (MoRTH). MoRTH formally requested expert medical committee recommendations
- April 4, 2025: ADG Health Ministry convened meeting with Neurology HODs from different Delhi institutes and Indian Epilepsy Association stakeholders (represented by Dr Atma Ram Bansal)
- April 16, 2025: The Medical recommendations formally forwarded from Health Ministry to Transport Ministry
- December 3, 2025: Expert committee meeting under Dr. Sunita Mondal (Additional DGHS) at Directorate General of Health Services; finalization of Form 1A medical certificate revision
- December 2025 onwards: Revised Form 1A circulated among expert members for final inputs before submission to MoRTH
- March 2026 onwards: Dr. Baheti, Dr. Gadgil and team are continuing regular follow-ups through multiple channels and the documents pending with MoRTH for final review and implementation

Deliverables and effects

The revised regulations will enable thousands of well-controlled epilepsy patients to regain driving privileges for private vehicles, enhancing their independence and quality of life while maintaining road safety through stringent medical criteria.

The updated Form 1A provides a clear, evidence-based framework for neurologists to assess fitness-to-drive, balancing patient autonomy with public safety through mandatory three-year seizure-free requirements and biennial license renewals.