



# drishti

## Road Accidents in India - 2018

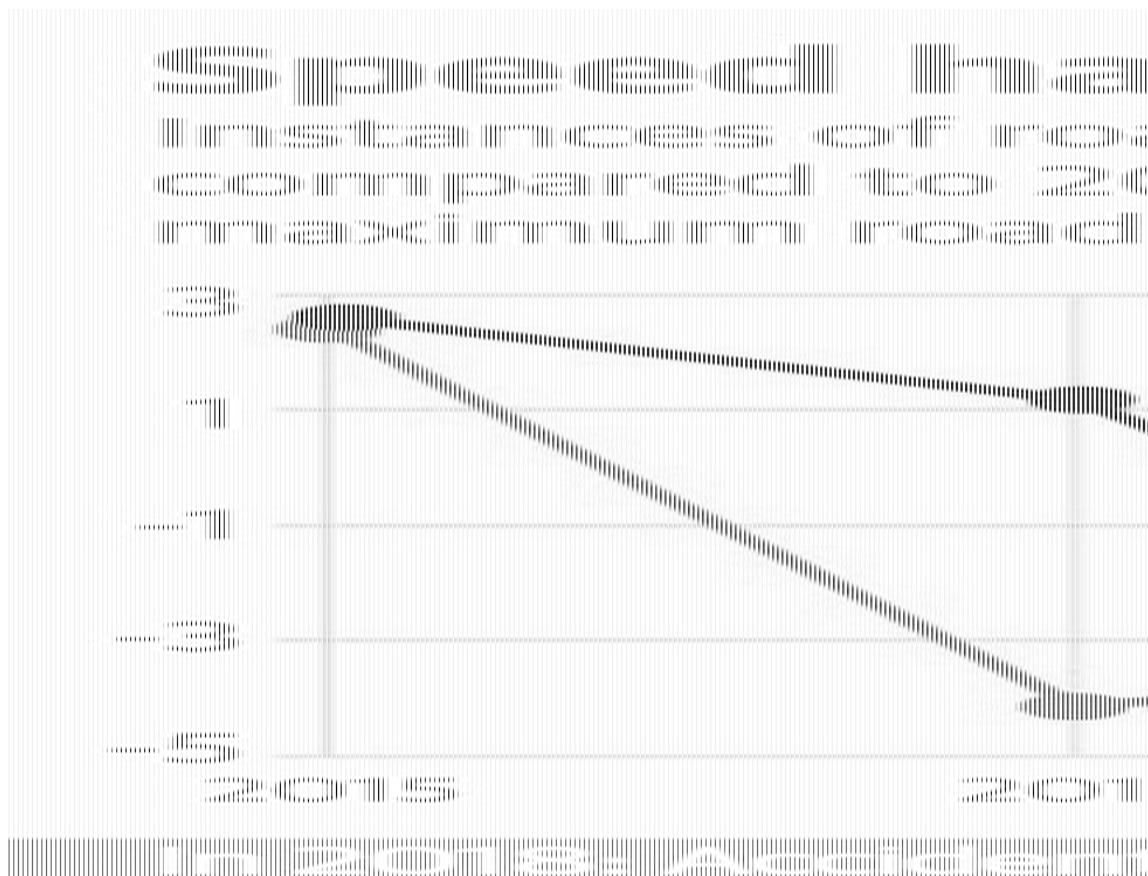
[drishtiias.com/printpdf/road-accidents-in-india-2018](https://drishtiias.com/printpdf/road-accidents-in-india-2018)

### Why in News

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has released the **annual report** on **Road Accidents in India**.

- The report shows **53 crashes and the loss of 17 lives every hour**.
- The road traffic injuries were the eighth leading cause of death in India in 2018.

### Key Points



- **Global Analysis:**
  - According to **World Road Statistics ( 2018)**, **India** reports the **highest** number of road accident deaths **followed by the US and China**.  
World Road Statistics is released by the **World Road Federation**.
  - As per the **WHO Global Report on Road Safety 2018**, India accounts for almost **11%** of the accident-related deaths in the world.
- **National Analysis:**
  - **The road accidents numerics:**
    - It kills almost **1.5 lakh** people **annually in India**.
    - The accidents, as well as accident-related deaths in the **period 2010-2018**, **dropped drastically** compared with the previous decades, **despite the very high rate of growth of automobiles**.
    - The **road accident severity** (the number of persons killed per 100 accidents) has **increased by 0.6%** in 2018 compared to 2017.
  - **Major Cause:**
    - **Over-speeding** is a major cause, accounting for **64.4%** of the persons killed. As the **maximum number of road accidents** occurred on **straight roads**.
    - **Two-wheelers** accounted for the **highest share (35.2%)** in total accidents in 2018.
  - **Age:**
    - The **young adults (18-45 years)** accounted for nearly **69.6%** of road accident victims.
    - **Minors** involved in road crash deaths were at **6.6% of the total deaths**.
  - **Gender:**  
The share of **males** in the number of total accident deaths was **86%** while the share of **females** was around **14%** in 2018
- **State-wise Analysis:**
  - As in 2017, the State of **Tamil Nadu** recorded the **highest number of road accidents** in 2018.
  - Similarly, as in 2017, the **number of persons killed in a road accident** was the **highest in Uttar Pradesh** in 2018.
  - **Delhi** has been ranked **first** in the **total number of road fatalities** compared to other **Indian cities**.

## Significance of Road Safety

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- Road transport is the **dominant mode of transport in India**, in terms of traffic share and in terms of contribution to the national economy.
- A **negative externality of expansion in the road network**, motorization, and urbanization in the country is the increase in road accidents and road crash fatalities.

- Road traffic injuries are one of the leading causes of death, disabilities and hospitalization in the country imposing huge socio-economic costs.

## Steps taken at Global Level

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- **Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety (2015):**
  - The declaration was signed at the **second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety held in Brazil**. The first conference was held in Russia (2009).
  - Through the Brasilia Declaration countries plan to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goal 3.6** i.e. to half the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2030.
  - **United Nations** has also declared **2010-2020 as the decade of action for Road Safety**.
- **UN Global Road Safety Week:**

It is celebrated **every two years**, the fifth edition of the UN Global Road Safety Week (6-12 May 2019) highlighted the need for strong leadership for road safety.
- **The International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP) :**

It is a registered charity dedicated to saving lives through safer roads.

## Steps taken Indian Government

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- **India has signed the Brasilia declaration** and committed to reduce the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
- **Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019**
  - It hikes the penalties for traffic violations, defective vehicles, juvenile driving, etc.
  - It provides for a **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**, which would provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India for certain types of accidents.
  - It also provides for a **National Road Safety Board**, to be created by the Central Government through a notification.
  - The act also provides for the **protection of good samaritans**.
- **Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan Committee**

Supreme Court had set up the three-member KS Radhakrishnan panel on **road safety** in 2014. The SC had termed the roads in India as “giant killers”

**Source: TH**