



Bharat New Car Assessment Programme

For Prelims: [Bharat New Car Assessment Programme](#), **Global NCAP**, [Ministry of Road Transport & Highways](#)

For Mains: Positive Outcomes and Challenges Related to Bharat NCAP.

Source: [TH](#)

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**, Government of India, has introduced the [Bharat New Car Assessment Programme \(Bharat NCAP\)](#).

- This indigenous star-rating system aims to **evaluate the safety of vehicles in the event of a collision**, empowering consumers to make informed decisions while purchasing cars.
- This comprehensive program is set to come into effect from **October 1, 2023**, and will play a pivotal role in curbing the alarming number of road fatalities in India.

What is Bharat NCAP?

- **About:** Under the Bharat NCAP initiative, vehicles, particularly **passenger cars**, will be **subjected to rigorous crash testing procedures**, and based on their performance as per protocols laid down in the soon-to-be-published Automotive Industry Standard 197, they will be assigned a safety rating ranging from one to five stars.
 - The programme is applicable to passenger vehicles with **not more than eight seats** in addition to the driver's seat with gross vehicle weight not exceeding **3,500 kgs**.
 - The test procedure involves **Frontal Offset Test, Side Impact Test and Pole-Side Impact Test**.
 - This rating will provide consumers with a clear indication of a vehicle's safety standards in the event of a collision.
 - Notably, **Bharat NCAP is voluntary**, encouraging manufacturers to nominate their vehicles for testing, thereby driving the production of safer cars in the Indian market.
- **Testing Parameters:** Bharat NCAP evaluates vehicles based on three crucial parameters:
 - **Adult Occupant Protection:** This parameter assesses the level of protection a vehicle offers to adult passengers in the event of a crash.
 - **Child Occupant Protection:** The safety of child occupants is equally vital. This parameter gauges a vehicle's effectiveness in safeguarding young passengers during collisions.
 - **Safety Assist Technologies:** Modern vehicles are equipped with a range of safety assist technologies. This parameter examines the presence and effectiveness of these technologies in preventing accidents or minimizing their impact.
- **Mandatory and Recommended Testing:** While the Bharat NCAP is voluntary, certain scenarios can trigger mandatory testing:
 - **Base Model Testing:** The base model of a popular variant, with a minimum sale of 30,000 units, may be subjected to testing.
 - **Ministry Recommendations:** If recommended by the **Ministry of Road Transport and**

Highways based on market feedback or public safety concerns, certain models might undergo testing.

- **Evolution and Alignment with Global Standards:** The Bharat NCAP draws inspiration from the **Global NCAP**, a project initiated by the **U.K.-based NGO Towards Zero Foundation**.
 - The Global NCAP acts as a collaborative platform for new car assessment programs worldwide including countries such as the U.S. which has the world's oldest crash testing regime since 1978. .
 - Over the years, India's testing protocols have evolved, with more than **50 crash test results published for the Indian market**.
 - Notably, Tata achieved India's first 5-star car rating in 2018.
- **Possible Outcomes:**
 - **Reduced Fatalities:** With India witnessing around **1.5 lakh road fatalities** annually, Bharat NCAP aims to reduce casualties by encouraging the **production of safer vehicles**.
 - **Healthcare and Insurance Relief:** Improved vehicle safety would lead to a reduction in the burden on **healthcare and insurance sectors**, resulting in positive societal and economic impacts.
 - **Manufacturer Reputation:** Manufacturers can enhance their brand reputation through consumer-centric practices, **fostering higher consumer loyalty**.
- **Challenges:**
 - **Diverse Road Conditions:** India's road infrastructure varies greatly, from **congested urban roads to poorly maintained rural highways**.
 - Different road conditions can impact the way vehicles behave during crashes, making it **challenging to design a one-size-fits-all safety assessment framework**.
 - **Affordability and Market Dynamics:** A substantial portion of the Indian population seeks **budget-friendly vehicles**, which might pose a challenge for manufacturers in implementing advanced safety features.
 - Striking a **balance between affordability and safety could be a complex task**, requiring innovative engineering solutions.
 - **Variety of Vehicles:** India's automotive market is diverse, featuring a wide range of vehicle types and sizes.
 - Designing crash tests that effectively evaluate safety across this diversity, from **compact cars to SUVs**, requires thorough consideration of different vehicle dynamics.
 - **Consumer and their Preferences:** While the Bharat NCAP aims to empower consumers, the **challenge lies in creating awareness about safety ratings and convincing buyers to prioritize safety over other features**.
 - Consumer preferences might still **lean towards design, features, and price**, limiting the immediate impact of safety ratings.

Way Forward

- **Collaborative Safety R&D Hubs:** There is a need to **establish safety research and development hubs** in collaboration with academic institutions and manufacturers.
 - These hubs can focus on addressing specific safety challenges unique to India, fostering innovation through joint research.
 - **Road Safety Awareness through Art:** There is a need to collaborate with **local artists to create safety-themed public art installations near accident-prone areas** that can raise awareness about the importance of safe driving.
 - **"Safety Score" Integration:** Insurance companies can **assign a safety score to each vehicle model based on its NCAP rating**.
 - This safety score can be **displayed prominently on advertisements and dealerships**, making safety a focal point of consumer decisions.
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Mission Amrit Sarovar

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Rural Development has provided insights into the advancements made in the implementation of [Mission Amrit Sarovar](#), an initiative aimed at enhancing water security across various regions.

What is the Mission Amrit Sarovar?

▪ About:

- On April 24, 2022, **Mission Amrit Sarovar** was launched as part of India's "**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**" celebrations for the [75th year of independence](#).
- The mission aims to construct/rejuvenate **at least 75 Amrit Sarovars in each district across India** to overcome the water crisis in rural areas.
- The target for these water bodies serves as a crucial step towards ensuring water sustainability at the local level.
- Eight Central Ministries/Departments, including **Dept. of Rural Development, Department of land resources, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Department of Water resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate changes, Ministry of Railway, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways**, actively contribute to the mission's execution.
- **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N)** has been engaged as Technical partner for the Mission.
 - BISAG-N is an **autonomous scientific society registered under the Societies Registration Act, of 1860**. It comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Geospatial data and technology play a pivotal role in identifying and executing the construction and rejuvenation of Amrit Sarovar.

▪ Progress and Achievements:

- So far, out of over 1 lakh identified Amrit Sarovars, the work has been started for **over 81,000 Amrit Sarovars** and a total of over **66,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/ rejuvenated**.
- The national target of **50,000 Amrit Sarovars has been accomplished, demonstrating the dedication and efficacy of the mission**.

▪ State-Specific Challenges and Advancements:

- Several states have made commendable strides towards achieving the goal of 75 Amrit Sarovars per district.
- While some states like **West Bengal, Punjab, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Bihar, and Rajasthan** are still working to meet this target, their determination remains unwavering.

▪ Bridging Resource Gaps:

- Mission Amrit Sarovar leverages various existing schemes and financial grants to realize its objectives.
- The [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana sub-schemes](#), and state-specific initiatives are channelled to mobilize resources for the mission's success.

▪ Empowering Local Participation:

- The mission encourages citizen engagement and collaboration with non-governmental resources.
- By fostering community involvement, the initiative seeks to harness additional support for the cause.

▪ Water Security through Collaboration:

- The mission's collaborative nature, combining governmental departments, technical partners, and local communities, highlights its multi-faceted approach to water security.
- The ultimate **goal is to transform the water landscape, enhance livelihoods, and**

ensure water availability for generations to come.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/current-affairs-news-analysis-editorials/news-analysis/25-08-2023/print>

