



3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety

Why in News

Recently, the Minister of Road Transport & Highways represented India at the **3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Stockholm (Sweden)**.

- It is organised by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) in association with the [World Bank](#) and minister-led delegations from more than 80 countries.

Key Points

- **Theme:**

- The **theme** of the conference is **'Achieving Global Goals 2030'**.

- **Objectives:**

- It intends **to bring road safety on the global agenda** and renew the world community's commitment to safer roads.
- It also aims to define ways to accelerate action on proven [strategies to save lives](#).

- **Highlights:**

- The conference adopted the **"Stockholm Declaration"** which calls for a **new global target for road safety for 2030** and a set of innovative solutions to save lives on the world's roads.
- It also aims to share successes and lessons from the implementation of the **Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020**.
- India has reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations goal set under the **UN Decade of Action of drastically reducing road accidents by the year 2030** during the event.

Numerics on Road Accidents

- **Worldwide Scenario:**

- **Number of Deaths:** The number of deaths on the world's roads remains unacceptably high, with an estimated 1.35 million people killed each year.
- **Leading Cause of Deaths:** Road traffic crashes are the eighth leading cause of death globally for people of all ages, and the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged 5-29 years.
- **Economic Burden:** The road accidents cost countries around 3% of their respective GDP.

- **National Scenario:**

- **Number of Deaths:** It kills almost 1.5 lakh people annually in India.
- **Drastic Drop:** 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.
- **Severity:** The road accident severity (the number of persons killed per 100 accidents) has increased by 0.6% in 2018 compared to 2017.

Global Initiatives for Road Safety

▪ Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety

- The declaration was **signed in 2015** 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.
- The United Nations has also declared **2011-2020 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 road

National Initiatives for Road Safety

▪ 4 E's for Road Safety:

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways had formulated a multi-pronged strategy based on **4 E's - Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency Care**.

- **Education:** Awareness is generated through various Road Safety Campaigns utilizing audio-visual and other print media and through NGOs.
- **Engineering:** The engineering measures are considered essential for adoption to help in improving road safety leading to reduction of accidents.
- **Enforcement:** The enforcement of road transport-related rules and regulations (like The Motor Vehicles Act 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989) is an important aspect to ensure road safety.
- **Emergency Care:** The scheme like National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS) has been implemented to provide cranes and ambulances to States/UTs/NGOs for relief and rescue measures in the aftermath of accidents.

▪ 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"**.

▪ 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.

Source: PIB