



Deaths Due to Road Accidents

According to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report (released during global road safety week), road accidents are the leading cause of death among people in the 5-29 age-group worldwide with more than 1.35 million lives lost each year and 50 million sustaining injuries.

Key Facts

- Road traffic injuries are the **8th leading cause** of deaths and **1st cause of death** among children and young adults aged **5-29 years**.
- **Reasons** include rapid urbanisation, poor safety, lack of proper enforcement of laws, influence of drugs or alcohol, speeding and failure to wear seat-belts or helmets.
- **Specific to India:** As per the data released by the Indian government, road crashes kill close to 1,50,000 people each year.
- **Impact:** Achieving **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 3.6** that calls for a **50% reduction in the number of road traffic deaths by 2020**, would become difficult.
- **Solution:** Strong political will and leadership is necessary to address this issue. For instance,
 - Government can ensure **adequate funding for road safety** by passing required laws.
 - **UN and other international agencies** can draw attention to the road safety crisis and can also ensure that road safety actions are a part of programmes on child and adolescent health, sustainable mobility etc.
 - **Parents, teachers, students, employees and volunteers** can highlight specific risks on the road and demand concrete measures to address them.

UN Global Road Safety Week

- Celebrated every two years, the fifth edition of the UN Global Road Safety Week (6-12 May 2019) highlights the need for strong leadership for road safety.
- The year 2007 marked the first United Nations Global Road Safety Week.