



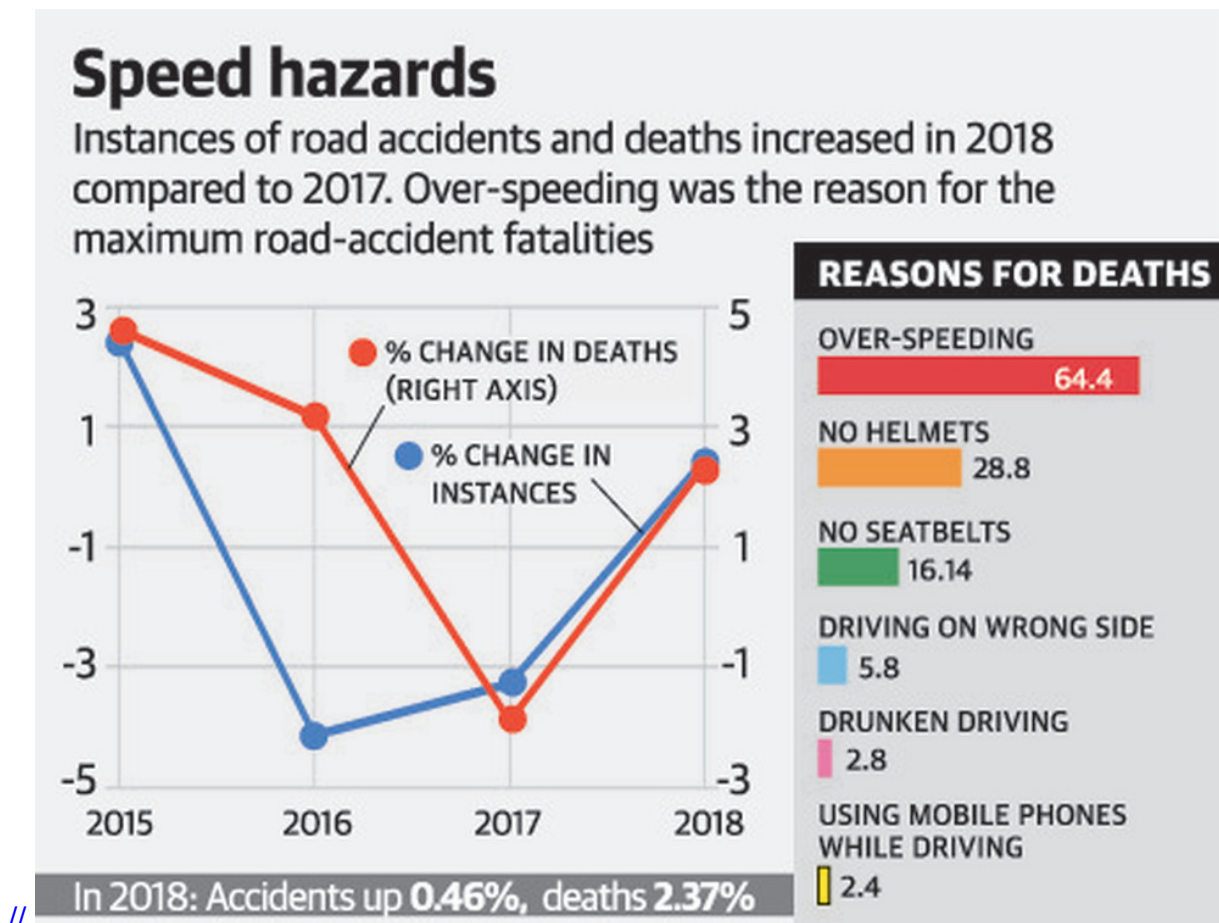
Road Accidents in India - 2018

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

- 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

▪ **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

- **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](#)

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