



Road Accidents in India - 2018

Why in News

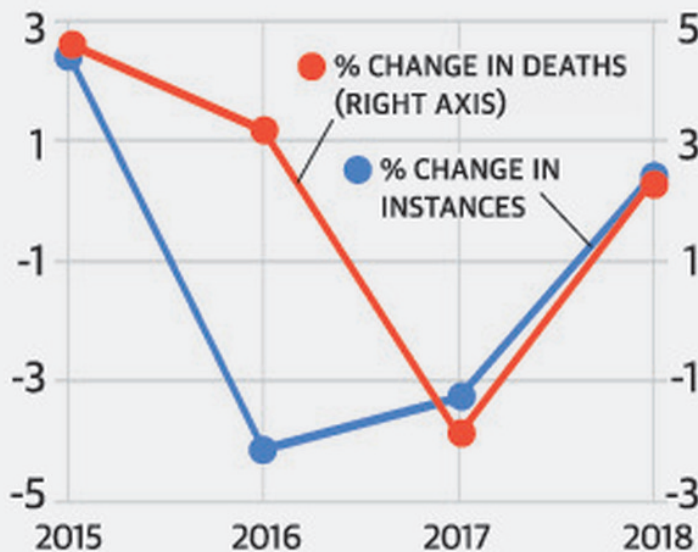
The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has released the [annual report](#) on **Road Accidents in India**.

- 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.

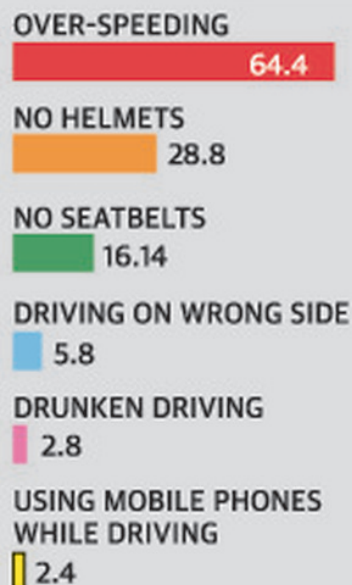
Key Points

Speed hazards

Instances of road accidents and deaths increased in 2018 compared to 2017. Over-speeding was the reason for the maximum road-accident fatalities



REASONS FOR DEATHS



In 2018: Accidents up **0.46%**, deaths **2.37%**

▪ 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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