

**GOOD SAMARITAN GUIDELINES**

**Prelims:** Governance- Policies

**Mains:** Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

**Why in News?**

- ✚ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued guidelines in pursuance of order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to protect the Good Samaritans in case of road accidents.

**Good Samaritan:**

- ✚ A Good Samaritan is a bystander, who voluntarily comes forward to administer immediate assistance or emergency care to a person injured in an accident, or crash, or emergency medical condition, or emergency situation.

**Significance of Good Samaritan law:**

- ✚ In the last ten years, road crashes have killed over 13 lakh people in India. According to the Law Commission of India, 50% of these victims died of preventable injuries and could have been saved if they had received care on time.

**How law came into force:**

- ✚ On March 30, 2016, the Supreme Court of India gave "force of law" to the guidelines for the protection of Good Samaritans issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- ✚ The purpose of a Good Samaritan law is to provide legal protection to bystanders who come to the aid and rescue of victims of road crashes.

**How Good Samaritan is protected:**

- ✚ A Good Samaritan will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury or death of the victim
- ✚ Good Samaritan who informs police or emergency service regarding an injured person not to be compelled to reveal his personal details
- ✚ Disciplinary action against public officials who coerce Good Samaritan to reveal his personal details

- ✚ Good Samaritans not to be forced to bear the initial cost of treatment: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to issue guidelines that no public or private hospital can demand payment for registration and admissions costs from the Good Samaritans
- ✚ Hospitals cannot refuse treatment to a victim: Lack of response by a doctor in an emergency situation to be considered as a “Professional Misconduct” and disciplinary action shall be taken against such a doctor
- ✚ The Good Samaritan can choose to be an eyewitness and cannot be compelled
- ✚ Eye witness to be examined in a single occasion
- ✚ Video conferencing may be used for examination of a Good Samaritan

