

5. Pedestrian Deaths in Road Accidents

Prelims Level: Road Infrastructure

Mains Level: GS-III Infrastructure – Road,

Why in News?

- The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has formulated a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety based on Education, Engineering (both of roads and vehicles), Enforcement and Emergency Care.

Highlights:

- The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has constituted a Parliamentary Constituency Committee on Road Safety in each district of the country to promote awareness amongst road users under the chairmanship of the MPs.
- The National Road Safety Policy outlines various policy measures such as promoting awareness, establishing road safety information database, encouraging safer road infrastructure including the application of intelligent transport, enforcement of safety laws with regard to road safety.
- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 focuses on road safety and includes, among other things, stiff hike in penalties for traffic violations and electronic monitoring of the same, enhanced penalties for juvenile driving, computerization/automation of vehicle fitness and driving, tests, recall of defective vehicles, extending the scope of third party liability and payment of increased compensation for hit and run cases, etc.

Some of the other Initiatives of the Government:

- Advocacy/Publicity campaign on road safety through the electronic media and print media to create awareness.
- Issue of Guidelines for the protection of Good Samaritans.
- Setting up of model driving training Institutes in States.
- Launch of mobile app for highway users i.e. “Sukhad Yatra 1033” which enables highway users to report potholes and other safety hazards on National Highways including accidents. Observance of Road Safety Week every calendar year for spreading awareness and strengthening road safety.
- Safety standards for automobiles have been improved.
- High priority has been accorded to identification and rectification of black spots (accident-prone spots) on national highways.