

## **5. 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety**

**Prelims Level:** International Institutions - Summits.

**Mains Level:** GS-II Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements.

### **Why in News?**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety took place recently in Stockholm (Sweden). The Minister of Road Transport & Highways has represented India at the Conference.
- It is organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) in association with the World Bank and minister-led delegations from more than 80 countries.

### **Highlights of the Conference:**

#### **1. Objectives of the Conference:**

- ✓ It intends to bring road safety on the global agenda and renew the world community's commitment to safer roads.
- ✓ It also aims to define ways to accelerate action on proven strategies to save lives.

#### **2. Theme of the Conference: 'Achieving Global Goals 2030'.**

#### **3. Stockholm Declaration**

- ✓ The conference adopted the "Stockholm Declaration" which calls for a new global target for road safety for 2030 and a set of innovative solutions to save lives on the world's roads.
- ✓ It also aims to share successes and lessons from the implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020.
- ✓ India has reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations goal set under the UN Decade of Action of drastically reducing road accidents by the year 2030 during the event.

### **Road Accidents – The National Scenario:**

- **Number of Deaths:** It kills almost 1.5 lakh people annually in India.
- **Severity:** The road accident severity (the number of persons killed per 100 accidents) has increased by 0.6% in 2018 compared to 2017.
- **Drastic Drop:** 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.

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## National Level Initiatives for Road Safety:

### 1. 4 E's for Road Safety:

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways had formulated a multi-pronged strategy based on 4 E's – Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency Care.
  1. **Education:** Awareness is generated through various Road Safety Campaigns utilizing audio-visual and other print media and through NGOs.
  2. **Engineering:** The engineering measures are considered essential for adoption to help in improving road safety leading to reduction of accidents.
  3. **Enforcement:** The enforcement of road transport-related rules and regulations (like The Motor Vehicles Act 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989) is an important aspect to ensure road safety.
  4. **Emergency Care:** The scheme like National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS) has been implemented to provide cranes and ambulances to States/UTs/NGOs for relief and rescue measures in the aftermath of Accidents.

### 2. Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan Committee

- Supreme Court had set up the three-member KS Radhakrishnan panel on road safety in 2014.

### 3. 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.