Strengthening Road Safety Legislation: Saving Lives

Key issues

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Issue 1: Escalating crisis

India faces an escalating road safety crisis over the coming decades, unless urgent and decisive measures are taken to address historically unprecedented barriers to success:

➢ *Rapid motorization tied to economic growth*

➢ *High proportion of vulnerable road users*

➢ *Growing pool of novice drivers*

➢ *Complex governance framework*

Issue 2: Capacity strengthening

Road safety management capacity in India requires considerable strengthening, and a promising pathway forward is being charted:

➢ *Sundar Report*

➢ *Road Safety and Human Development Review for 12th Five Year Plan*

➢ *National Transport Development Policy Committee*

➢ *Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2012 Bill*

Issue 3: **Mainstreaming road safety**

Road safety must be recognized as a core transport service attribute and related measures addressed in an integral fashion, rather than as budget-constrained 'add-ons':

➢ *Transport sector goal statements of good practice countries are increasingly aligned with sustainable development goals ('safe, clean, affordable')*

➢ *Human life and health is seen as paramount and not to be traded off against mobility goals*

Issue 4: Critical success factors

Factors critical to the sustainable success of road safety strategies and programs must inform and guide national and state initiatives.

➤ *Lead agency accountable for results*

➤ *Ambitious vision and performance targets*

➤ *Integrated evidence-based interventions*

➤ *Sustainable funding and rigorous investment screening*

➤ *Devolution of service delivery*

Issue 4: Critical success factors (cont'd)

- ➢ High-level coordination

- ➢ Robust performance monitoring of outputs, intermediate outcomes and final outcomes

- ➢ Ex-post evaluation and independent peer review

- ➢ Program momentum sustained with new and intensified interventions

- ➢ Research and development and knowledge transfer

Issue 5: Legislation for results

The results focus of the road safety management system must be empowered and enabled by effective and efficient legislation:

➢ *Agency responsibility, authority and accountability for safety performance*

➢ *Standards and rules governing the safe design and use of the road network; and related entry and exit of drivers, vehicles and operators, and recovery and rehabilitation of crash victims*

➢ *Compliance with safety standards and rules*

Issue 6: Credible and enforceable

Above all, an effective and efficient legislative framework must be credible and enforceable:

- ➢ Federal/State/Local functionality

- ➢ Matched to the management capacity of the courts and fines administration systems

- ➢ Penalties aligned with road safety risks, road user ability to pay, and desired deterrence effects

- ➢ Predicated on saving lives and grounded in scientific evidence that supports this results focus

Concluding remarks

➢ *Initiatives to strengthen road safety legislation in India must be taken in the context of the overarching priority to strengthen institutional leadership and related management and scientific expertise.*

➢ *Strengthened legislation should empower and enable a systematic focus on improving road safety results, and above all be credible and enforceable.*

➢ *The escalating trauma on India's roads demands urgent attention and today's event represents an important milestone in mobilizing effective action.*

Thank you