

122 Being cognizant of road safety while working on environmental
3 sustainability is the need of hour. Elaborate.

Road safety and environmental sustainability go hand in hand and are paramount for sustainable development. India being one of the fastest growing economy (fifth largest) has a greater say in this.

Road safety in India

As per National Crime Records Bureau accident and suicides in India in 2021, the number of road accidents increased from 3.54 lakhs to 4.2 lakhs. India has 1% of global vehicles and contributes 11% of global accidents as per world bank as costs 3-5% to the GDP.

Over speeding is the primary reason for fatalities, contributing to 70% of deaths. Road safety and environment protection is the need of the hour.

Policy measures

① Policy such as the vehicle scrappage policy will get rid of older and end of life vehicles. By 2025 there will be 22.5 million end of life vehicles.

② Restructuring speed limits as done in Wales at 80k/h. It will reduce the particulate matter emissions and also controls speed.

③ Green highways and underpasses have been constructed on NH-766 which needs to be upgraded throughout the country.

④ zero fatality corridor project such as safeguarding natural barriers and crash barriers reduced fatalities by 52% on Mumbai Pune highway.

More than 50% of deaths by road accidents are between 15-34 years which is a demographic loss to country. Environmentally sound road safety rules can reverse the trend.