

World Bank releases report on Delivering Road Safety in India: Leadership Priorities and Initiatives to 2030

India Needs Additional US\$ 100-Plus Billion for Safer Roads: World Bank

World bank releases report on Delivering Road Safety in India: Leadership Priorities and Initiatives to 2030. The India road safety report is part of a regional report, Road Safety in South Asia: Opportunities for Shared Regional Initiatives.

The Government of India aims to tackle the road safety challenge through a multifaceted approach. The National Road Safety Strategy (2018 to 2030) will guide the road safety agenda and sets out India's proposed journey towards Vision Zero, which seeks to reduce road fatalities to zero. The recent enactment of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019 (MVAA) is an important step toward reducing the death toll on the nation's roads. The WBG provided technical guidance for the draft bill, shifting its primary focus from motor vehicle registration, road use, and penalties, to a more comprehensive legislative framework that covers all aspects of road safety, on par with international good practice. The MVAA proposes a National Road Safety Board to be constituted as the apex body to take policy decisions addressing identified strategic themes. Counterpart agencies at the state level are also proposed. India has a federal structure of government and a large proportion of road safety activities are implemented by the states and lower levels of government. To assist the passage of the MVAA, the Government of India is currently preparing a US\$2 billion State Road Safety Incentives Program to provide financial grants to the states to seek continuous improvements in their road safety

performance.

Program initiatives will also require proper sequencing as institutional capacity must first be strengthened to ensure agencies can effectively deliver safety services. Robust vehicle and driver licensing systems will need to be well established and accessible by law enforcement agencies and regulatory authorities before the full power of safety compliance regimes can be exercised. Infrastructure safety design skills and tools will also require considerable strengthening. Initiatives taken must be systematic and at scale.

India will require an estimated additional investment of US\$109 billion over the coming decade to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of a 50 percent reduction in national road crash fatalities. Investing in effective road crash fatality and injury prevention will contribute to the accumulation of human capital in India, which in turn will contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic growth and overall country wealth. Scaled-up road safety investment will also potentially produce the added benefits of contributing to the achievement of other sustainable mobility goals related to improved transport productivity, universal accessibility, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and reduced local air and noise pollution.

Improving road safety in India is vital to the nation's health, well-being, and economic growth. As is evident from analytical work undertaken by the World Bank Group (WBG), 50 percent reduction in road crash fatalities and injuries would result in an estimated 14 percent increase in GDP over the analysis timeframe of 24 years. Likewise, the estimated population welfare gains from achieving a 50 percent fatality reduction in India over this period will be equivalent to 16.3 percent of the GDP.

Key priorities for the Government of India are to implement the new National Road Safety Strategy and all directives of the MVAA, at national, state, district and town levels. To rapidly achieve this, it is important that formal agreements are reached and institutional arrangements are established for implementation of MVAA provisions with state governments; and that the

State Road Safety Incentives Program is launched on a national mission mode to support the implementation process. Priority must also be given to complementary initiatives addressing safer roads and mobility, safer vehicles, safer road users and more effective post-crash response services.

The detailed World Bank report on Delivering Road Safety in India; Leadership Priorities and Initiatives to 2030 has been enclosed for your kind reference.

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