

# CUTS INTERNATIONAL NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Monthly Brief #15, July 2025

## India's Road Safety Crisis

### *Time for Behavioural Reform and Legal Clarity*

India accounts for nearly 10 percent of global road deaths, with over 150,000 lives lost annually, despite having just one percent of the world's vehicles. While legislative measures like the Motor Vehicles Act, 2019, and AI-based enforcement show intent, meaningful change remains elusive. Drivers cause about 80 percent of crashes, yet behavioural interventions are lacking.

Speeding is the leading killer, responsible for over two-thirds of road deaths. Vulnerable users like pedestrians face heightened risk. States like Tamil Nadu and Kerala have seen progress through tech-driven enforcement and awareness campaigns, but efforts remain fragmented and uncoordinated.

Legal loopholes persist. Courts have called out lenient penalties under the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, underscoring the need for stronger deterrents. Enforcement also needs to shift from punitive to preventive, with police trained in empathy and community engagement.

Kerala's Student Police Cadet programme is a successful model of instilling road discipline through youth-led civic education. Internationally, Bogotá shows that political leadership can drastically cut fatalities.

India must treat road safety as a governance priority and public value. CUTS urges swift enforcement of legal provisions, review of lenient laws, and integration of community-driven, evidence-based strategies into national road safety plans.

Targeted awareness and behavioural change programmes should be conducted regularly for all drivers, as a priority.

Pradeep S Mehta  
Editor

*Abridged from an article appeared in Deccan Chronicle, July 26, 2025.*

The same can be accessed at: <https://cuts-cart.org/pradeep-s-mehta-to-make-roads-safer-behaviour-changes-legal-reforms-needed/>

## Message for our Readers

The fifteenth edition of the National Affairs Monthly Brief contains selected published news or comments on trade, regulatory, and governance issues.

This newsletter contains copyrighted material whose use has not been authorised by the copyright owners. CUTS is making these articles available in our efforts to advance understanding of trade, regulatory and governance issues. We believe this constitutes a 'fair use' of the copyrighted material as provided for in Article 10 of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Paris Text 1971) and Section 107 of the US Copyright Law. If anybody wishes to use materials from this publication for purposes beyond 'fair use', s/he must obtain permission from the copyright owner. CUTS will not draw any profit from this publication since it is solely for informative and educational purposes.

Readers are encouraged to send their views and suggestions at [cuts1@cuts.org](mailto:cuts1@cuts.org)



### US Tariff Blow to India: What is at Stake?

US President Donald Trump has imposed a 25 percent tariff on a wide range of goods from India, effective August 01, 2025, triggering alarm across the export sector and raising the spectre of a broader economic fallout. The sweeping measure, aimed at correcting what Trump described as "obnoxious" non-tariff barriers, is being seen as both a protectionist move and a pointed diplomatic signal.



## India Relaxes Sulphur Norms for Coal Plants



India has reversed a decade-old mandate to install US\$30bn worth of clean-air equipment, easing sulphur emission rules for most coal-fired power plants. The government was reviewing 2015 norms that required nearly 540 coal-based power units to install flue-gas desulphurisation (FGD) systems that remove sulphur from the plants' exhaust gases in phases starting in 2027.

- [Meghnad Desai, an economist of many parts](#)  
Surjit S Bhalla, Indian Express, July 31, 2025
  - [Centre Unveils ₹1,000 Crore ADEETIE Scheme for MSME Energy Efficiency](#)  
New Indian Express, July 28, 2025
  - [India-UK FTA: Pathway to Stronger Trade Ties](#)  
Prabhash Ranjan, The Hindustan Times, July 25, 2025
  - [India Sees Progress in ASEAN FTA Review Before October Summit](#)  
Mukesh Jagota, The Financial Express, July 15, 2025
- 



## India Leads World in Fast Payment, Thanks to UPI

India leads in faster payments due to the rapid growth of Unified Payments Interface (UPI), while debit and credit card usage declines, according to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) note. UPI processes over 18 billion transactions monthly, dominating electronic retail payments. Interoperable systems like UPI foster digital payment adoption and reduce reliance on cash, as evidenced by decreased ATM withdrawals.





## Toy Industry Rebounds with Smart Regulation



India's toy industry is undergoing a quiet transformation driven by the Toys (Quality Control) Order, 2020. The policy mandates all toys sold in India to meet Bureau of Indian Standards norms, marking a shift toward quality and safety. It aims to reduce import dependence, especially on China, and revive domestic manufacturing through stricter regulation.

- [₹1 Cr Homes Drive India's Real Estate Recovery in Q2](#)  
Hindustan Times, July 29, 2025
  - [Despite Blips, India Set to Lead for Next 20 Years](#)  
Suresh P Iyengar, The Hindu Business Line, July 29, 2025
  - [GST: A Game-Changer for India's Economy](#)  
Shehzad Poonawalla, Hindustan Times July 10, 2025
  - [Adani Eyes Full Control at India's Airports](#)  
Aakriti Bhalla, The KEN, July 09, 2025
- 



## Bima Sakhi Yojana to Empower Rural Women, Insurance for All

Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan hailed the launch of the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' as a historic step towards women's empowerment and economic security in rural and semi-urban India. He credited the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for driving this transformative initiative, which aligns with the government's 'Insurance for All by 2047' mission.



### 340 Farmer Groups Cross ₹10 Cr Turnover Under FPO Scheme



The Central government's effort to set up over 10,000 farmer producer organisations (FPO) seems to bear fruit after an arduous toil in the past four years. According to a report of Financial Express citing data gathered by the Union Agricultural Ministry, approximately 1100 or 11 percent FPOs have clocked a turnover of Rs 1 crore. Of the 1,100 FPOs, 340 have reportedly clocked a turnover over Rs 10 crore.

- [FSSAI Flags 526 Storage Units for Non-Compliance in FY25](#)  
Business World Online Bureau, July 28, 2025
- [Consumer Watchdog Targets Misleading Claims by Hotels, Aggregators](#)  
Dhirendra Kumar, Livemint, July 22, 2025
- [Inside India's Food Reform: The Eat Right Strategy](#)  
India Today, July 19, 2025
- [India's Health Push Needs Greater Inclusion](#)  
Times of India, July 06, 2025

#### In Media

- [The WTO moment: Why India must lead the reform agenda for a rules-based global order](#)  
Pradeep S Mehta, The Economic Times, July 24, 2025
- [Create more space for solar power](#)  
VP Singh, Pradeep S Mehta & Akash Sharma, The Financial Express, July 23, 2025
- [Governance Shuffle: The Unseen Cost of Frequent Transfers in India's Bureaucracy](#)  
Pradeep S. Mehta, The Asian Age, July 16, 2025
- [Justice in Protest, Chaos on the Streets](#)  
Pradeep S. Mehta and Madhuri Vasnani, First India, July 09, 2025