



CUTS INTERNATIONAL NATIONAL AFFAIRS



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Road Safety Crisis: Why Accident Deaths Keep Rising

India's road safety crisis has become too severe to ignore. In 2023, 4.61 lakh accidents caused over 1.72 lakh deaths, with national highways—just two percent of the network—accounting for more than a third of all fatalities. Recent crashes in Rajasthan, including two in early November 2025 that killed 29 people, highlight the system's fragility. Upgraded corridors continue to expose gaps in enforcement, engineering, and emergency response.

Over-speeding remains the biggest killer, causing nearly 70 percent of deaths. Poor road design, missing barriers, blind curves, and encroachments worsen risks, while limited trauma care and weak compliance with helmets and seatbelts compound the problem. Vulnerable users—pedestrians, cyclists, and two-wheeler riders—constitute the majority of casualties, yet receive little policy attention.

Despite reforms such as the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act and Supreme Court directives, implementation remains poor. The National Road Safety Board, mandated six years ago, is still not operational. Licencing and training systems are outdated, enforcement capacity is low, and most states lack dedicated personnel, modern surveillance, or reliable funding.

India needs structural reform: an empowered safety board, a national speed management framework with automated enforcement, and coordinated monitoring of audits and black-spot fixes. Without urgency and accountability, highways meant for growth will continue to cost lives.

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Editor

Abridged from an article appeared in Policy Circle on November 20, 2025.

The same can be accessed at: <https://www.policycircle.org/policy/india-road-safety-crisis-accidents/>

Message for our Readers

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

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IMF Praises India's Resilience, Urges Fiscal Discipline & Reforms

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has praised India's strong economic performance and resilience, urging continued fiscal discipline and faster structural reforms amid global uncertainty. It noted that India's post-pandemic recovery remains robust, with growth at 6.5 percent in FY25 and rising to 7.8 percent in the first quarter of FY26, alongside easing retail inflation due to subdued food prices. These observations come from the IMF's 2025 Article IV bilateral consultation with India.



World Draws Indian Scientists Home, Academia Pushes Them Away



Global geopolitical shifts and a renewed sense of patriotic purpose are drawing talented researchers back to India, fuelling a promising reverse brain drain. Yet many returnees encounter opaque hiring systems, entrenched nepotism, and heavy bureaucratic hurdles—obstacles that risk undermining India's ability to capitalise on this rare window to strengthen its scientific and academic ecosystem.

- [India's Choice: Digital Sovereignty vs New Digital Raj](#)
Shashi Tharoor, Indian Express, November 27, 2025
 - [Italy Launches IMEC Parliamentary Friendship Group](#)
Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, Economic Times, November 25, 2025
 - [Shanghai Symposium Lauds India's Trade Liberalisation](#)
The Economic Times, November 21, 2025
 - [India Ranked 9th in Climate Disasters Impact: Report](#)
Pratip Acharya, Indian Express, November 13, 2025
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TRAI Cuts Down 2.1 million Numbers in Spam Crackdown

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has disconnected over 2.1 million mobile numbers and blacklisted nearly 100,000 entities involved in spam and fraud, following complaints filed via the DND app. The regulator urged users to report spam through the platform rather than merely blocking numbers, noting that blocking only protects individuals while scammers continue targeting others using new numbers.



Apple Contests CCI's Global Turnover Penalty Rule



Apple has moved the Delhi High Court challenging India's revamped competition penalty framework. The petition is scheduled to be heard on December 03. It contests the 2023 amendment to Section 27(b) and the 2024 Monetary Penalty Guidelines, which allow the Competition Commission of India to impose fines of up to 10 percent of a company's global—not just Indian—turnover over the past three years.

- [NCLT Clears Sequent-Viyash Merger](#)
The Hindu Business Line, November 20, 2025
- [UPI October: Phonepe, Google Pay Lead Dips Despite Record Volumes](#)
Palak Sharma, Inc.42, November 18, 2025
- [GST Reforms to Lift FY26 GDP Growth to 7.4%](#)
Business Standard, November 11, 2025
- [IBC-PMLA Clash: RPs Seek Timely Resolution](#)
Ruchika Chitravanshi, Business Standard, November 06, 2025



Women's Empowerment Top NDA Priority

India's PM Narendra Modi told BJP women workers in Bihar that the NDA is committed to social justice and women's empowerment, urging them to secure a record victory and highlight development work. He praised schemes like free electricity, metro projects, Mudra loans, Jeevika and dairy initiatives, saying they transformed women's lives. Modi contrasted this with past "jungle raj," asserting voters will ensure a decisive NDA win.



Rajasthan Road Safety Cell Under Fire as Accidents Rise



Rajasthan's Road Safety Cell, created in 2017, faces criticism as accidents and fatalities keep rising despite three policies since 2017, with over 90 percent of proposals **unimplemented**. Officials say the cell failed to replicate Tamil Nadu's successful trauma care and enforcement model, even as Rajasthan's accidents rose annually after 2020. They also allege misused funds, static membership, and nepotism, undermining the cell's effectiveness.

- [Lenovo Told to Pay ₹45,000 for Defective Laptop](#)
Bar and Bench, November 25, 2025
- [M3M Foundation Drives ₹70 Crore Philanthropy in Gurugram](#)
Chhavi Chandani, The Logical Indian, November 17, 2025
- [Child Labour in Cotton Industry Cut by 70%](#)
Sribala Vadlapatla, Times of India, November 08, 2025
- [Indian Healthcare Startups Reinvent Primary Care](#)
CNBC TV18, November 03, 2025

Upcoming Events

- Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme for MSMEs in India
Guwahati, Assam, December 12, 2025
- Artificial Intelligence, Consumers, and Competition Policy
December 05, 2025