



International Road Federation

5th Regional Conference
**INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT FOR
REDUCTION OF ROAD FATALITIES**

25 - 26 November 2010 | India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Mr. K. K. Kapila, Chairman, IRF Geneva Programme Centre giving the Welcome Address



Shri Kamal Nath Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways, Mr. S.K. Puri, DG-RD and Special Secretary, MoRT&H, Ms. Sibylle Rupprecht, Director General, IRF – Geneva, Mr. N.K. Sinha, Chairman- IRF India Chapter, distinguished delegates and invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen. I extend a very warm welcome to all of you on behalf of IRF and on my own behalf. I particularly express my thanks to the Hon'ble Union Minister, Kamal Nath Ji for sparing his valuable time to be amongst us this morning. I extend a special welcome to him and also to Ato Tekloadiq Ribba, State – Minister, Ministry of Transport, Ethiopia, who is also with us here because they are going to launch road safety initiatives in Africa starting from Euthopia. I particularly welcome you sir, for taking pains to travel all the way from Euthopia to India to be with us today.

International Road Federation has been concentrating on promotion of road safety for ensuring safer transport system in the world. The current road safety scenario is exceedingly

alarming. World over, more than 1.3 million people die every year while 5 millions become handicapped as a result of road crashes. 90% of these deaths occur in the developing world, which has only 40% of vehicular population. This results in an economic loss of more than 500 billion USD, which is more than the budget of 10 poor nations of this world, and we lose that much every year on the roads. Road traffic injuries are among the leading causes of death for people between 5 and 44 years of age, killing more people each year than malaria. Unless immediate and effective action is taken, road traffic injuries are predicted to become the fifth leading cause of death in the world, resulting in an estimated 2.4 million deaths each year.

There is, therefore, an immediate need for addressing this issue. When one jumbo crashes, for the next full week you can see nothing else in the TV or print media but details emerging from the crash. But on road crashes, which is equivalent to 10 jumbo crashes every day, there is little or no concern shown anywhere in the world, and there is a total lack of concern. After a long wait, in March 2010 the UN General Assembly resolution proclaimed a Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 (A/64/255) with a goal of stabilizing and then reducing the forecasted level of road traffic fatalities around the world by increasing activities conducted at national, regional and global levels. The resolution calls upon Member States to implement road safety activities, particularly in the areas of road safety management, road infrastructure, vehicle safety, road user behavior, road safety education and post-crash care. This plan envisages the reduction of road fatalities by 50% by 2020.

The condition back home in India is equally bad. Around 340 people die every single day. One jumbo crashes every single day, yet there is little or no noise. The economic loss due to road crashes in India is over Rs. 75,000 crores every year. Yet the Planning Commission is not coming forward to invest even Rs. 5000 crores on road safety, which would help in reducing road fatalities and the colossal loss of life and property every year. I request the policy makers to flag the issue with the Planning Commission.

It is very good to spend money for upliftment of poor. It is equally necessary to save lives and consequent trauma of the accident victim, as most of the people who die are poor. Their family suffers for the rest of their life, as the sole bread earner of the family could be the victim of the road crash. About 5,00,000 people are gravely injured, who need assistance. This AAM-AADMI deserves more care than others. When will the Government get sensitised to this? We have only one savior, whom I can see here, and that is you sir, Kamal Nath Ji. Please help flagging this issue appropriately in the Government.

We are indeed grateful to Shri Kamal Nath Ji who launched a National Campaign, along with IRF India Chapter, for reduction of road fatalities in India by 50% by the year 2012. We are moving ahead with it. It is indeed a tribute to your visionary action Sir. A number of initiatives have since been taken by the Ministry of Road Transport and highways and IRF-India Chapter on the four E's i.e.(a) Engineering Measures, (b) Enforcement, (c) Education and (d) Emergency care.

On the subject of Engineering measures, the Govt. of India, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have issued detailed instructions in April this year which are over and above the existing provisions of IRC Manuals, to be effected to ensure safer and forgiving roads in India. Forgiving roads are designed and constructed to avoid or to mitigate negative consequences of driving errors. On the education front, efforts are being made to provide road safety teachings in the schools, as a part of the school curriculum. IRF has arranged

with publishers that road signs are printed on inside of front and back covers of text books. Besides IRF has been making / arranging preparation of promos and their display on TV networks, display of road safety messages, preparation of films to be screened in cinema halls before any commercial film is shown, printing of messages of road safety in 127 news papers in the country. Two such promotional films are ready. We need to launch them countrywide Sir, I humbly solicit your kind assistance in this Launch an early reality.

In order to enhance enforcement, necessary legislative modifications are being done. The Motor Vehicle Act is under review. This process however, needs to be speeded up. Sensitizing the Police Force to ensure that effective enforcement measures are taken needs to be speeded up.

The Emergency care, a well laid down plan in consultation with Ministry of Health is being drawn to adequately provide for emergency response to the accident victims. Noteworthy work has been done by GVK Foundation in this regard. The details of this you will be hearing during the deliberations of this Seminar. Many other initiatives are being taken. There is however a need to build synergy amongst them.

Sir, I would like to request you to kindly issue a directive, in the Ministry, that no estimate be approved unless road safety provisions have been adequately covered and road safety audit report duly complied. In other words provision of road safety measures be made mandatory, in line with the environmental clearance.

The police force as well as hospitals need to be fully sensitized by the Government through directives from the highest level to first attend to the accident victim and then the procedural action can follow. The accident victim must be given full care and all other aspects can be taken care of thereafter.

I would request you, Sir, that keeping-in-view the enormity of the problem, the Government should declare Road Safety as a National Mission in line with eradication of Polio. Any investment on road safety measures, by a Corporate or Philanthropist individual should be fully exempted from tax.

This single action will go a long way in reducing road accidents and saving valuable lives. We look forward to your kind support in championing this initiative, which you may kindly pursue with the Government at the highest level.

Before I conclude, I will like to request each one of you present here to please commit yourself to the road safety programmes and do your utmost, by joining in this Yagya and putting an Ahuti, so that this universal cause, gets appropriately flagged and addressed at the earliest, saving valuable human lives.

I once again welcome you all, Ladies & Gentlemen, to this important Conference.

Thank you

Jai Hind

Ms. Sibylle Rupprecht, Director General, IRF – Geneva



Mr. Kamal Nath, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Mr. S.K. Puri, Director General (Road development) & Special Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Mr. K.K. Kapila, Chairman of the IRF and Conference Chairman and my Boss, and Mr. N.K. Sinha, Chairman of IRF India chapter, Distinguished Delegates and Invitees.

I would like on behalf of the International Road Federation in Geneva, extend a very warm welcome to all of you, who have come from far and near to this Conference, which once again will bring us the latest insight on Road Safety.

The IRF now-a-days spans across continents and includes about 450 members in almost 90 countries all over the world. It is together that we can make a difference to this endemic which is the road fatalities and road accidents. The India Chapter was set up in 2009, and this is now the 5th conference which we are happy to welcome in the field of road safety. We feel we have made an enormous progress and required changes here in India by pushing this road safety issue to the forefront of everybody's concern. IRF is being active in road safety all over the world. We also tackle environment, road financing and ITS, and we believe everything is closely linked.

In our working groups we research, give expert advice, enhance education, training and especially promote knowledge sharing. The better we know the better we have shared our knowledge, the better we can provide answers for problems arising for others from road safety. Our policies, be there on national level or international level, are well respected and received.

I would like to pay tribute to IRF India once again for organizing this event, and I would also like to mention about this honoured engagement of IRF India in championing road safety in this region of the world. The presence of such high dignitaries amongst our guests, delegates and invitees showed importance of the Chapter in India. I also would like to say a few words on the IRF and to road safety engagements. We are extremely active partner with the United Nations and all organizations attached to it to work very actively in the

decade of action 2011 to 2020. Only if we work together very actively, we will be able to decrease the road fatalities, be they deadly fatalities or injuries. With 500 million people injured every year, this is such a heavy burden on every nation's economy and every nation's health service. We will look forward to work with you for the next 10 years aiming at achieving this goal, aiming at making a difference in the world and in a difference to the people.

Once again a very warm welcome, and I wish you a very fruitful and enriching conference deliberations.

Thank you.

Mr. S.K. Puri, DG-RD and Special Secretary, MoRT&H sharing the highlights of the Technical Programme



Speech of DG (RD)&SS and Chairman, Technical Committee

Respected Mr. Kamal Nath-ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways

Mr. K. K. Kapila, Chairman, IRF Geneva Programme Centre

Ms. Sibylle Rupprecht, Director General, IRF

Mr. N. K. Sinha, Chairman, IRF India Chapter

Delegates of the Conference, Invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning to you all.

This Conference on “Institutional Arrangement for Reduction of Road Fatalities” being organized by IRF (India Chapter), is the 5th Conference as you know in the Series in last five years. The Government of India supports this conference and both national and international community have highly appreciated the quality of all the previous editions of this conference for their rigor. It has already been recognized as the most valuable platform to provide directions to the road safety issues in the country and the region. Government has made serious efforts to implement most of the recommendations arising out of the earlier conferences.

While deliberating in the earlier conferences on the road safety concerns, the plans to tackle them, the safety devices and systems available in India and from the developed world to address the road safety problems in India, it was realized that the one of the vital link in the whole process is the Institutional Arrangement, which needs to be strengthened. Therefore, the 5th IRF Regional Conference is being organized on the theme of “Institutional Arrangement for Reduction of Road Fatalities”. Experienced experts from India and abroad will deliberate on various aspects of this main theme, and a concrete set of recommendations will be evolved. The Technical Sessions in the Conference over next two days will intensely cover the sub-themes of road safety focusing only on institutional arrangements required to achieve the road safety targets. The sub-themes of the conference are:

- Policy, Administration and funding issues
- Law, Regulation and Enforcement issues
- Insurance, health and Trauma Care issues
- Implementation of engineering measures
- Education campaign and community involvement

The speakers will bring out the institutional arrangements which they themselves have worked on and other best practices from India and world over. All these deliberations in five Technical Sessions will be preceded by a Plenary Session covering basic themes. In the Concluding Session, there will be a Panel Discussions on “Reforms Needed in Institutional Arrangements for Reduction of Road Fatalities to 50% by 2012”.

A set of valid and practical recommendations will be drawn up by the experts and the delegates after due deliberations, which will bring out the need and actual means of implementing Institutional Set up for achieving the target of reducing road fatalities by developing a safety culture.

As the Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Conference, I am confident that the proceedings will be rich and satisfying with the highly technical and practical experience which you will carry with you. Please do not forget to take advantage of the highly specialized and innovative technology exhibition that has been put up for you. Also, there is a Special Session on the first day, which is today on presentations by Experts and Exhibitors. On behalf of the Technical Committee of the Conference, I request you to attend all these exceedingly interesting and thought provoking sessions.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Kamal Nath, Hon'ble Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways giving the Inaugural Address



Director General (Road Development) Mr. Puri, Chairman of the Conference Mr. Kapila, Madam Sibylle Rupprecht, Mr. Sinha, and a special welcome to Minister Ribba, Minister of Transport from Ethiopia.

I am happy to be with you all here at the Inaugural Session of the 5th International Road Federation Regional Conference on Institutional Arrangements for Reduction of Road Fatalities.

This is a subject of great importance; as the Govt of India is committed to building world class roads, it has to be not only world class roads but should be building safe roads. Motor vehicles have changed human life, and the benefits of the automotive era have come with externalities like emissions and road accidents, injuries and fatalities. Every year more than a million people die in the world because of road accidents, and apart from that there is very enormous physical, emotional and psychological damage which the road accidents cause. There is obviously a very high economic cost to society. It is estimated that on the average the deaths and injuries on the roads cost the country anywhere between 1 and 2 percent of the GDP. Now, on the road accident record, India has a very poor record in road safety, which is just not acceptable. It is not acceptable in human terms, and is not acceptable in economic terms.

Both injuries and fatalities constitute a major public health problem and had been grossly neglected. The trend of road accidents in our country shows that it is only growing and has been fueled by the rapid motorization and the predominance of two wheelers in the motor vehicle population. And today this problem assumes even greater proportion with a 35% growth in the auto sector.

With many more thousands of kilometers of roads to be built, this problem is very highly compounded. In India, I always said that we have to be very India specific; we have the challenges of two wheelers and four wheelers. We also have the challenge of the two legged and the four legged on the roads, this is also very India specific. So in any strategy, in any institutional arrangement, we will have to ensure that it is very India specific. In India, the accidents are in the age group of 25 to 65 years, and this is the wage earning stage of life and the child raising age group. The implications and the cost of losing the main bread winner by death or disability in an accident, has a huge impact on the economy and the economic growth on the country. The World Bank and WHO Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention had identified Road Traffic Injuries as the 9th leading cause of death, and I heard Mr. Kapila say sooner it will become the fifth. So this really needs to be addressed on an extremely urgent basis. No other country in the world has an auto sector growth of 35%. Now here we have a growth of auto sector of 35 percent. This represents a huge challenge for us in India.

Experiences has shown and it is not new that we need to have very integral approach by Safety Action plans that are correlated within and across different sectors and stake holders. Road safety has to be integrated. The integration of institutions, the integration of the forces, and unless we have an integrated approach road safety cannot improve. It is by aligning all the forces cordially in a concerted manner can we move forward in this task.

The IRF India Chapter, I am aware of this, has resolved to bring down road fatalities by 50 % by the year 2012, and my Ministry is committed to extend a whole hearted and complete support to this endeavour and we will work together towards achieving these targets. Reduction in road fatalities is not an easy task, safety or lack of it is the interaction of vehicles, road and environment. And it is here that institutional arrangements must be strengthened.

Institutional arrangements have to play a very important role in taking care of safety. My Ministry is taking measures from time to time. Engineering measures are required to ensure that at the design stage itself we are attending to all safety concerns, and also by issuing suitable directions to the law enforcement and for awareness.

Some of the measures proposed by the Central Government include the setting up of the National Roads Safety and Traffic Management Board through an Act of Parliament to oversee road safety activities in the country. This would enable creation of similar boards at the state levels. The Board would also have financial autonomy to carry out its activities. In the next session of Parliament, I propose to bring in the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill. We had a very thorough interaction in this with all stakeholders. There has been delay as we did not want to bring in Amendment Bill which was outdated, but something which was completely attune to the times of today. I proposed bringing in to the Parliament in the next session so that it will be another step forward. I have personally taken up with the Finance Ministry, the Human Resource Development Ministry and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to ensure that tax benefits are extended to corporates for their spending on road safety programmes as also permitting duty free imports of simulators for driver training schools. For the awareness in the children through the curriculum and public educational campaign through the print and electronic media, appropriate steps are being taken. Undoubtedly the task involved is gigantic and has multi dimensions which all the more requires a great deal of thought about how this can be achieved. We need to share

knowledge with other countries - both developed and developing, so that we could adopt from other countries who are also facing this challenge.

The institutional arrangements which are proposed to be discussed in this conference in many important areas of policy, administration, law, regulations, enforcement, insurance, health, trauma care and educational campaign and community involvement; all these have to be looked into as to how best they can be developed in our own institutions to address the concerns in each of these areas related to road safety.

I am extremely happy that International Road Federation has lend support to the cause of road safety in India, and I would like to congratulate every one in the IRF who has been participating here and has been actively engaged in the field of road safety and will contribute to the deliberations today and tomorrow. I wish this conference to have meaningful discussions, and look forward to the recommendations arising out of this conference with the assurance that you will have my full support.

Thank you very much.

Mr. N.K. Sinha, Chairman- IRF India Chapter presenting the Vote of Thanks



Respected Mr. Kamal Nath ji,
Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport & Highways
Mr. S. K. Puri,
Director General (Road Development) & Special Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
Mr. K. K. Kapila,
Chairman, IRF and Conference Chairman
Ms. Sibbylle Rupprecht
Director General, IRF
Distinguished delegates and Invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my proud privilege to propose a vote of thanks at the end of this inaugural session. On behalf of IRF, India Chapter and on my own behalf, I express our sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport & Highways for sparing his valuable time out of his busy schedule. We profusely thank for his thought provoking address. Sir, this will boost the morale of all professionals, especially those working on road safety. We do hope the National Campaign for Reduction of Road Fatalities will continue to receive your valuable guidance and support and profession will remain really indebted.

We are grateful to Hon'ble Minister Mr. Ribba, Minister of Road Transport, Ethiopia for his gracious presence in this inaugural function.

We are grateful to Mr. Puri, Director General (Road Development) & Special Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, who is also currently Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Conference for his address giving insight into the technical content of the conference. We are sure that the conference will have highest level of presentations and discussions. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Mr. A. V. Sinha, Former

Director General (Road Development) & Special Secretary, who chaired the Technical Committee before his retirement, for his valuable guidance and directions.

We are indeed grateful to Mr. Kapila who has been through IRF and on his personal behalf, championing the cause of road safety in India. It seems road safety has gone deep into his breath and he has always been thinking about how to accomplish the task at fastest speed. He has now been elevated as Chairman of IRF world body. We are grateful to him for his address outlining the performance of IRF in road safety. Ms. Rupprecht is the DG of IRF and we depend on her directions in every aspect of our performance. We are grateful for her address and support.

The conference will not be successful without the organizing efforts. The organizing committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. V. L. Patankar, Member (Tech.) NHAI, has really done yeoman job. We are grateful to the Committee and Mr. Patankar. We are grateful to all principal sponsors, sponsors and co-sponsors and exhibitors for their support.

We are grateful to all the delegates and invitees for their presence. We are grateful to the print and electronic media for covering this inaugural function and the conference.

We would also like to thank India Habitat Center for providing the facilities for the conference.

In the end, we thank you all for the success of this Inaugural Function.

Thank you all.

Jai Hind